

STATE HOUSE

(Continued)

DRAENER 12

SPRINGFIELD

71.200120001



# Illinois Springfield

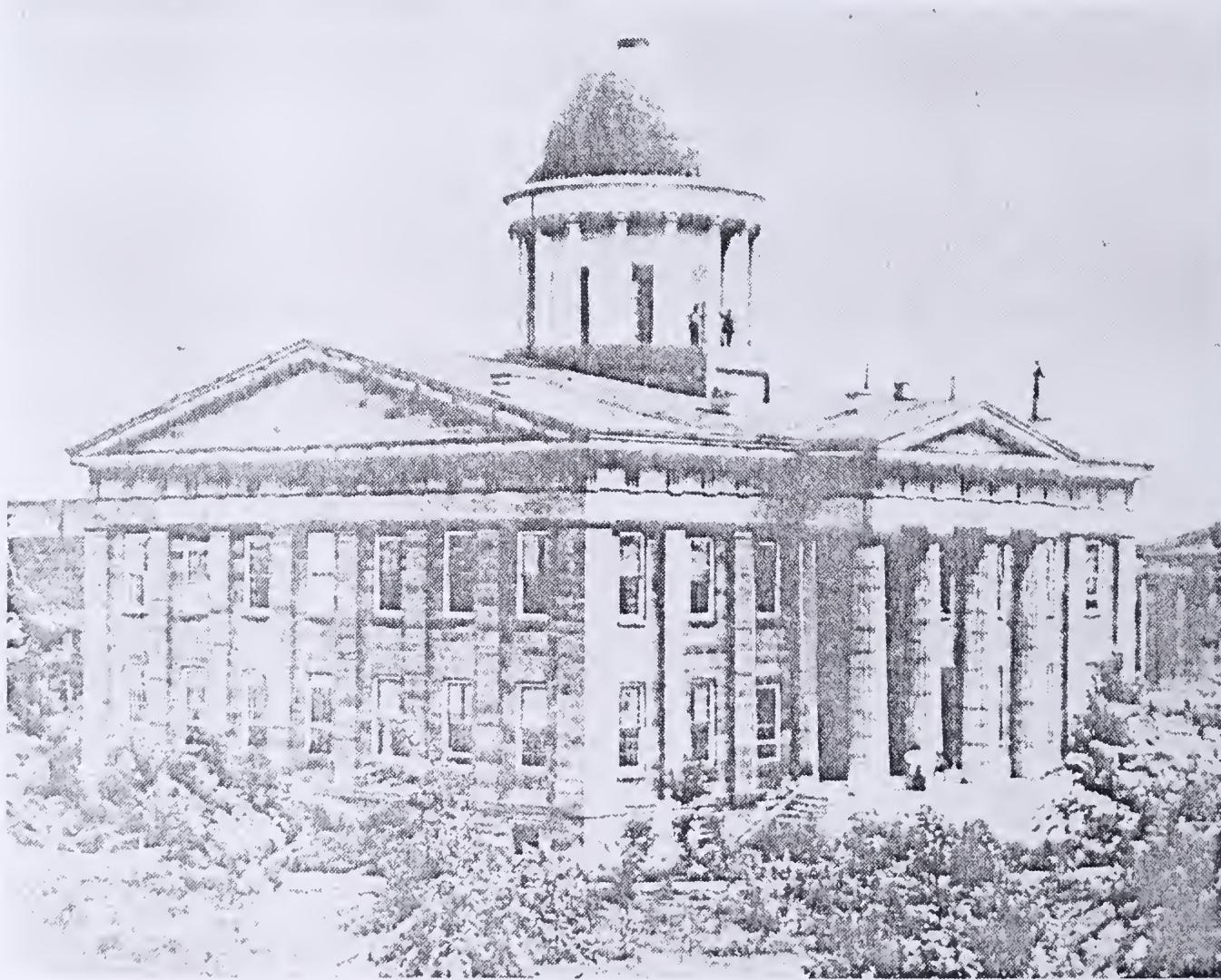
## State House (2)

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# House divided?

*--This one was taken apart completely  
then rebuilt just like it was in Lincoln's time.*



The old Illinois capitol in Lincoln's time.

The building that was the capitol of Illinois from 1837 to 1876 will be rededicated Monday, after being rebuilt in a monumental construction project.

The rededication will highlight two days of events in Springfield observing the 150th anniversary of the admission of Illinois to the union, on Dec. 3, 1818.

In its rebuilt life, the old capitol will be a major shrine to Abraham Lincoln, whose own life and death were intimately associated with it.

It was in the capitol, at the state Republican convention of 1858, that Lincoln delivered the famous speech in which he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," a reference to a nation split over the issue of slavery. The speech is believed to have been an important factor in his ascension to the

Lincoln sat in the capitol as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives. He pleaded 236 cases in the Illinois Supreme Court, on the building's first floor. As President-elect, he used the office of the governor, lent to him, as his own office.

After his assassination, his body lay in state in the House chamber and thousands filed past his bier.

When the present Illinois capitol was completed, in 1876, the old building became the Sangamon County Courthouse.

In 1899, with Sangamon County's needs growing, the building was jacked up and a new main floor inserted in it. Other major changes also were made: The old House chamber became a Circuit courtroom; the old dome was replaced with one more elliptic, and the dome pillars were shortened.

*day*



### The rebuilt capitol as it looks today.

the Lincoln shrine. The sale was fine with Sangamon County, which, by then, needed a still larger—and more modern—courthouse.

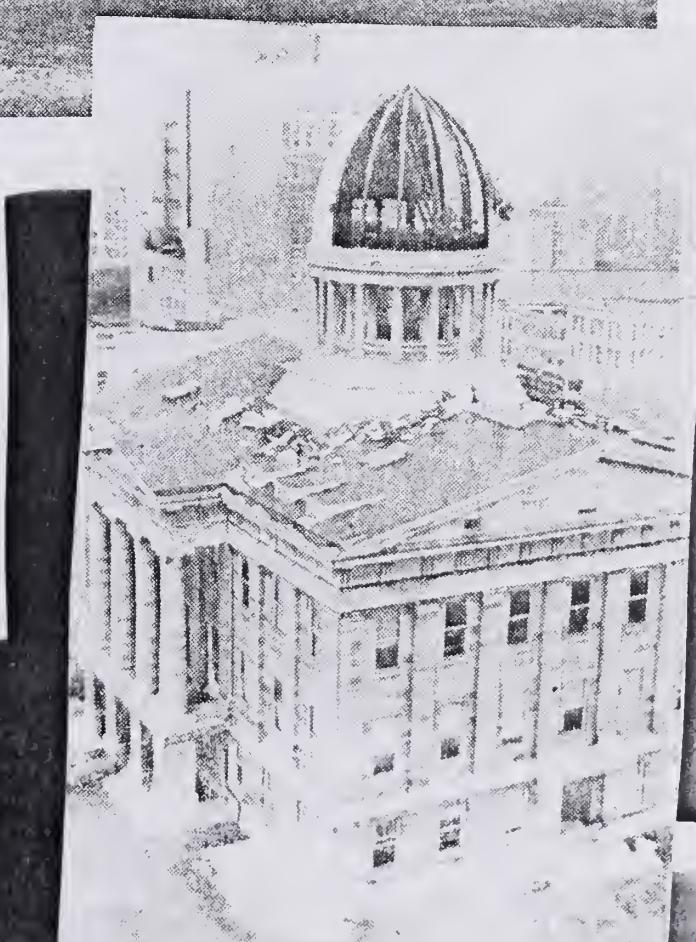
The restoration of the building was an even bigger construction job than the 1899 enlargement of it.

Included in the restoration project, was a 450-car underground garage and a Lincoln library.

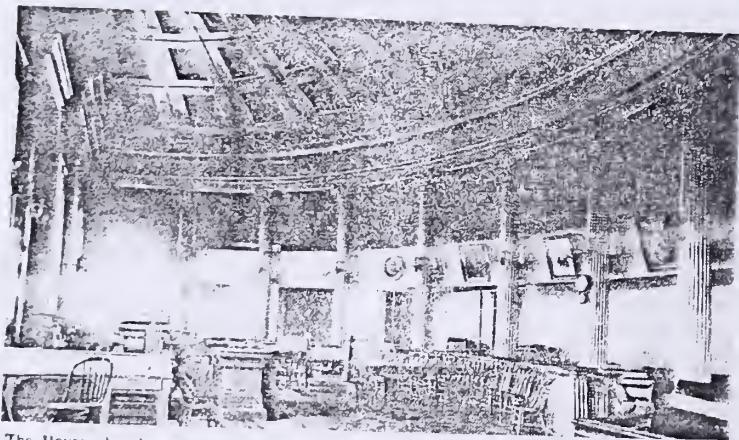
The construction required taking the building apart stone by stone and marking each stone for later reassembly; the stones—3,300 of them—were stored at the state fairgrounds.

Now, the reconstruction job has been completed, except for furnishings to be added later.

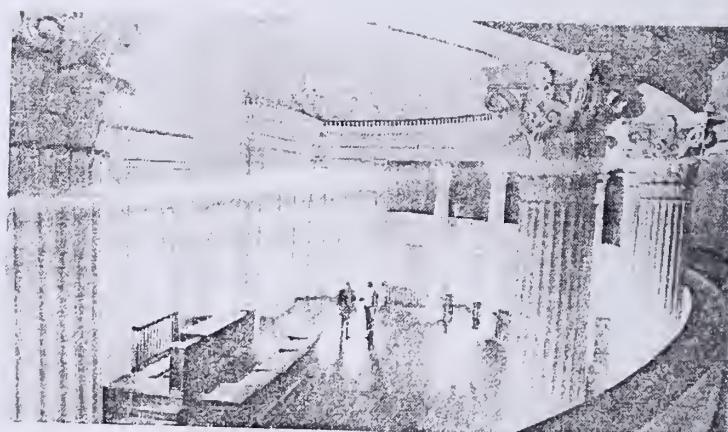
The building where Lincoln once warned against what could happen to a house divided has been lifted off its foundation, enlarged, dismantled, rebuilt—and still is as solid as ever.



The building as dismantling began in 1966. Note latter-day first floor, latter-day bases under main entrance columns, shorter supports under dome.



The House chamber, scene of Lincoln's speech, as it looked in his time.



The rebuilt House chamber, with furnishings yet to come.

Note:

Complete script filed in Drawer 26,  
Drama/Impersonators, Division-  
Impersonators, Folder - "A Day with  
President Lincoln" (Richard Blake)

SOUND AND LIGHT PROGRAM

at the

OLD STATE CAPITOL

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DRAFT IV

Guggenheim Productions, Inc.  
3121 South Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
July 14, 1975

Narrator (contd): and went on to be commander of all the Union armies. state militia in 1861. Here in 1842 was held the extradition trial of Joseph Smith, the leader of the Mormons. From this public square the sons of Illinois marched off to the Mexican War in 1846 in their blue pantaloons and their oil-cloth caps. Past its portals, covered wagons rumbled west and runaway slaves darted to freedom. It is a crossroads of America with signs pointing in every direction.

onstruction Sounds  
X Follow Action

Construction of the building began in 1837-- an expensive proposition in a year of financial crisis. Its cornerstone was laid on the Fourth of July with fireworks, a brass band and crackling oratory. The stone for its walls was dragged by teams of oxen from the limestone quarry miles south at Cotton Hill. Though seven in partial use since 1839, it was not completed until 1853. It is a stage on which some of the most crucial chapters in American history were enacted.

All this is enough to make this building memorable but it has a special distinction: it sheltered the career of a man comparable to no other in the history of America. A man from this place spent more of his working hours in this building than in any other.

7/14

Normal lighting dims  
out and eerie lights  
come up on State House.

Civilwar music gently  
distorted is heard.

Narrator:

Buildings erected by men watch and record  
and remember. In the passing of time, they  
claim and keep the human presences that have  
moved through them. Shapes and echoes of the  
past float in the air around them. They are  
witnesses to history.

Light change

The old State House here in Springfield is  
an archive of American emotion. Perhaps no  
building/surviving the 200th birthday of the  
republic-has seen so many great men and so  
many great moments--some of the moments open  
and public--some of them lonely and private,  
shared only with the silent stones. This  
building echoes the goices of Daniel Webster  
and John Calhoun and Stephen A. Douglas, the  
Little Giant. Words spoken here reverberated  
throughout the nation and shaped its person-  
ality for centuries yet to come. In this  
building a young army officer named Grant--  
a handsome failure who embarrassed the poli-  
ticians who appointed him--organized the



## Credits

Sound and Light at the Old State Capitol was produced by Guggenheim Productions, Inc. of Washington, DC—Charles Guggenheim, producer/director; Warner Schumann, executive producer. Written by Charles Guggenheim and Leo Brady. The story is narrated by the late Lee J. Cobb—it was his last professional performance. Actor Paul Lambert is the voice of Abraham Lincoln; actor Whit Bissell reads the words of Stephen A. Douglas. Music for the production was especially composed and conducted by Robert Wykoff. Historical accuracy of the script was verified by the staff of the Illinois State Historical Library.

WHIT BISSELL  
DouglasLEE J. COBB  
NarratorPAUL LAMBERT  
Lincoln

## Finding Sound & Light

The Old State Capitol is located on the square in downtown Springfield, between 5th and 6th Streets and Adams and Madison Streets.

The building is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day of the year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Sound and Light at the Old State Capitol lasts 45 minutes and the grandstand seats approximately 400 persons.

Following each sound-and-light performance, one of five extant copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's own handwriting will be available for public viewing in the lobby of the Old State Capitol. The copy is owned by the Illinois State Historical Library.

Sound and Light at the Old State Capitol is operated by the Illinois State Historical Library. Address any queries or comments to: Illinois State Historian, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62706.

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Convention and Tourism Commission

ISHL 100M 5-78



# SOUND & LIGHT

## At The Old State Capitol In Springfield, Illinois

Nightly at Nine (EXCEPT MONDAYS)—Weather Permitting  
From the Saturday before Memorial Day  
Through the Saturday after Labor Day  
Admission Free



## The Story

The Old State Capitol was the principal forum of Abraham Lincoln's public life for the twenty years that ended in 1861 with his departure for Washington and the Presidency. The building was witness to the national contention over the meaning of "democracy"—the issue that grew and deepened into the ultimate confrontation: Civil War. Lincoln was caught up in the controversy and more and more he was thrust forward as chief spokesman for those who opposed the extension of slavery. "I do not move events," he said. "Events have moved me." How this came about is the story told by Sound and Light at the Old State Capitol.

It was in the Old Capitol that Lincoln served as a state representative, practiced law, was nominated for U.S. senator, delivered the speech that led to the famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas, waited for news of his election as President, and began to organize his administration. It was in the Old Capitol that Lincoln's character, his philosophy, and his political fortunes were molded—a formation that changed the course of history.



## The Technology

In a small room 25 feet under the stone walk at the Old Capitol's south gate, a sophisticated electronic control unit activates Sound and Light at the Old State Capitol. A one-inch 8-track tape unwinds at 15 inches per second piecing a control track and six separate audio tracks. Voices, sound effects, and music are played back through one or more of eleven high fidelity speakers positioned so that the sound actually moves from one place to another. The unit's computer console "reads" the control track of the 3400-foot-long tape for cues to activate thousands of sound and light effects through the eleven speakers and the more than 160 exterior and interior lighting fixtures.

It is this technology that enables sound and light to exploit the power of suggestion to such a degree that the audience—in its mind's eye—begins to "see and hear" the events that took place when Abraham Lincoln lived in Springfield and worked at the Old State Capitol.





# Lincoln Lore

September, 1978

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1687

## A "Great Fraud"? Politics in Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois*

Thirty years ago, historians thought Lincoln was most a statesman when he was least a man of party. In general, this meant that Lincoln the President was a statesman, but Lincoln the Whig politician was not. In the period from the late 1940s to the early 1960s, some historians celebrated the practical, compromising politician as the ideal statesman, and for this brief period Lincoln was often pictured as a statesman because he was a skilful politician. This new view never redounded to the benefit of Lincoln's Whig years, though David Donald argued in 1959 that President Lincoln was merely a "Whig in the White House." The new appreciation for politicians did not extend to the Whig party, which was of little interest to liberal scholars who regarded its affection for banks and tariffs with disdain.

G.S. Boritt's *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream* has at last rescued Lincoln's Whig years from the charge of narrow partisanship. But the reasons for the long reign of the view that Lincoln was a petty politician before the White House years have not been adequately explored.

One of the principal reasons is the heavy reliance historians have placed on Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois from Its Commencement as a State in 1818 to 1847* (Chicago: S.C. Griggs, 1854). It is an appealing book — a minor classic, in fact — written with economy, full of facts and descriptions nowhere else available, and brutally frank.

It is Ford's frankness which has had the greatest appeal. The tone of most nineteenth-century memoirs was pious and earnest rather than cynical, and nineteenth-century state histories were generally celebratory in nature. Ford's book, a state history written almost as a memoir by an active participant in much of the era he describes, is remarkable for its candor about

politics. Himself a politician (Ford was the Governor of Illinois from 1842 to 1846), he viewed the motives of most politicians with cynicism and spoke with the authoritative tone of an insider. Historians anxious for a reliable source which pierced through the customary platitudes and moralisms of nineteenth-century historical writing have devoured Ford's book.

For the early period of Lincoln's involvement with Illinois politics, Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois* is one of the most important sources. It is quoted by everyone. Even Lincoln quoted from it. In the first of his famous debates with Stephen Douglas, at Ottawa on August 21, 1858, Lincoln argued that his opponent had not always bowed to the will of the Supreme Court as readily as he bowed to its will as expressed in the Dred Scott decision.

And I remind him of another piece of history on the question of respect for judicial decisions, and it is a piece of Illinois history, belonging to a time when the large party to which Judge Douglas belonged, were displeased with a decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, because they had decided that a Governor could not remove a Secretary of State. You will find the whole story in Ford's History of Illinois, and I know that Judge Douglas will not deny that he was then in favor of over-slaughing that decision by the mode of adding five new Judges, so as to vote down the four old ones. Not only so, but it ended in the Judge's sitting down on that very bench as one of the five new Judges to break down the four old ones.

Again, when Lincoln met Douglas at Charleston on September 18th, a heckler asked Lincoln, who was defending Lyman Trumbull's reputation, what Ford's book said about him. Lincoln re-

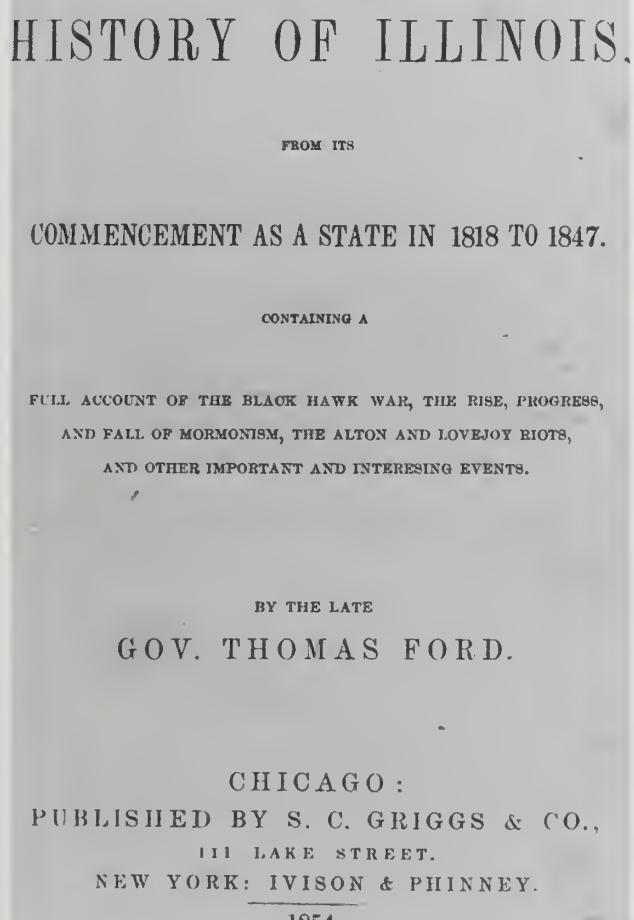


FIGURE 1. Title page of Ford's *History of Illinois*.

plied: "My own recollection is, that Ford speaks of Trumbull in very disrespectful terms in several portions of his book, and that he talks a great deal worse of Judge Douglas."

Ford's *History of Illinois* has played an important role in documenting Lincoln's career. It is one of the principal sources for the charge that, as a member of Sangamon County's "Long Nine," Lincoln had traded support for local internal improvements for votes to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The book barely mentions Lincoln, however, and its real importance has lain in providing a picture of the political landscape of Lincoln's early career.

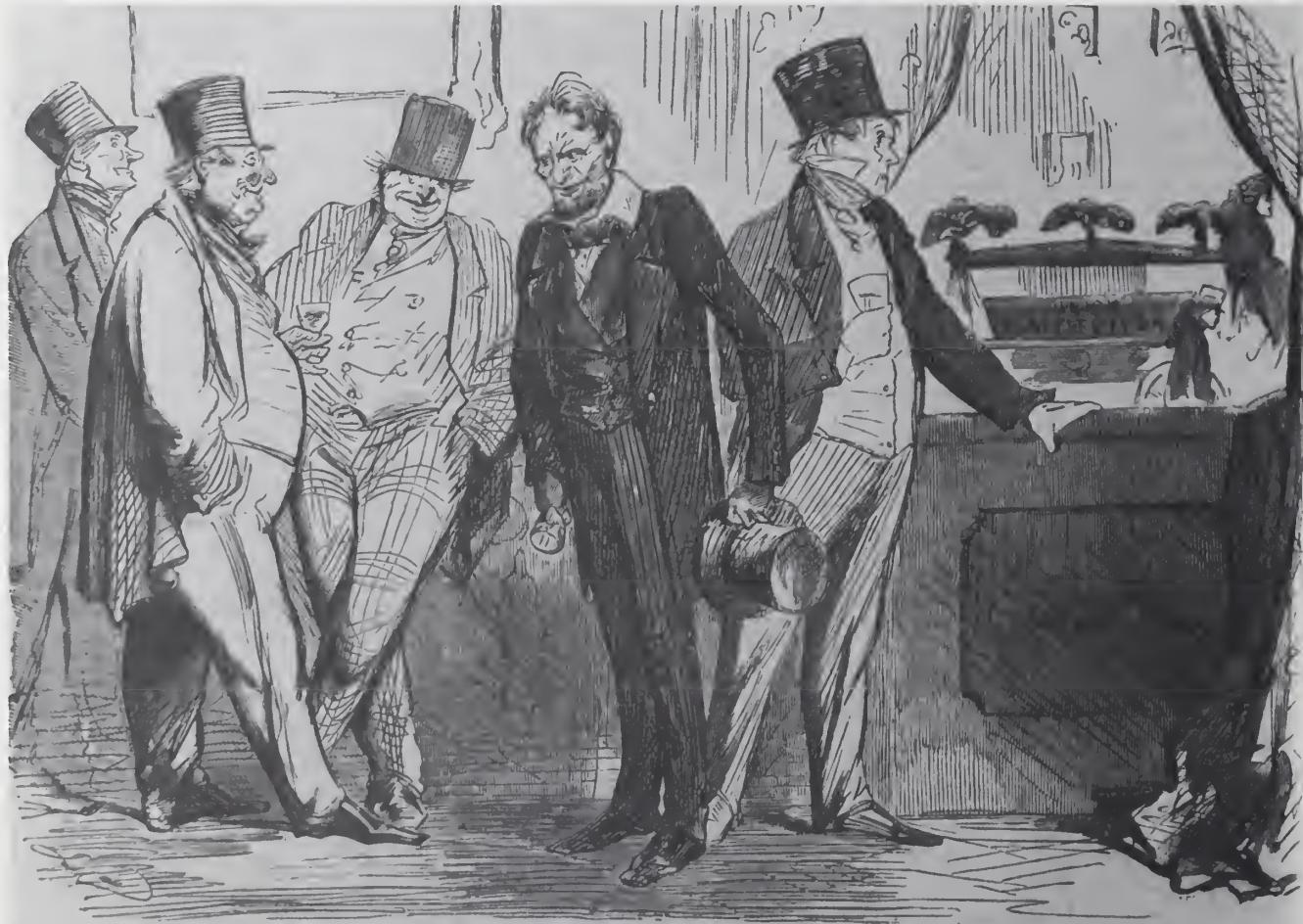
A good example of the book's use appears in the first volume of J.G. Randall's *Lincoln the President*:

The politicians' world in Illinois in the day of Lincoln's earlier career has been drawn from life in the vivid pages of Governor Thomas Ford. It was not an inspiring picture. Because of the want of true "issues" and the scramble for favor, as explained by Ford, an election became "one great fraud, in which honor, faith, and truth were . . . sacrificed, and politicians were debased below the . . . popular idea of that class of men." Government might mean one thing to the people; its purpose in the minds of politicians was another matter. They had a "destiny to accomplish, not for the people, but for themselves." With the people caring little for matters of government, said Ford, the "politicians took advantage of this lethargic state of indifference . . . to advance their own projects, to get offices and special favors from the legislature, which were all they busied their heads about." Politicians, he said, operated on the principle that "the people never blame any one for misleading them"; it

was merely a matter of supporting or opposing measures because of their popularity or unpopularity at the time. A "public man," said the governor, "will scarcely ever be forgiven for being right when the people are wrong." That was why "so many" politicians were "ready to prostitute their better judgments to catch the popular breeze." Whatever may have been the basis of parties in their early origin, Ford observed that "little big men, on both sides . . . feel the most thorough hatred for each other; their malice often supplying the place of principle and patriotism. They think they are devoted to a cause, when they only hate an opponent; and the more thoroughly they hate, the more . . . are they partisans." Party newspapers, he thought, promoted and perpetuated this unhealthy state of things.

Ford's candor about political motivation and his seeming nonpartisanship ("little big men" were "on both sides") persuaded many a student of Illinois history that politics were a sordid affair. Since Lincoln's life was thoroughly and inextricably enmeshed with Illinois politics, the result was that historians found in him, perhaps in less exaggerated form, the general attributes of Illinois politicians outlined by Thomas Ford.

The bitterness of Ford's disgust for politics and politicians was extraordinary and was not misrepresented by Randall and other Lincoln biographers who saw Lincoln's early political career as narrowly partisan and crafty. Ford introduces his theme in his discussion of the first Illinois legislature early in the book. "It appears," he said, "by the journals of this first legislature that a committee was appointed to contract for stationery, who reported that they had purchased a



OUR PRESIDENTIAL MERRYMAN.

The Presidential party was engaged in a lively exchange of wit and humor. The President Elect was the merriest among the merry, kept those around him in a continual roar."—*Daily Paper*.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. *Harper's Weekly* pictured Lincoln swapping stories with drinking politicians, as a hearse carrying the Union and the Constitution passed by.



**FIGURE 3.** *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* pictured the crowd of office-seekers who besieged Lincoln when his administration began.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

sufficient stock at the cost of \$13[.]50. For every dollar then paid, we now pay hundreds for the same articles; but this was in the days of real frugality and economy, and before any of the members had learned the gentlemanly art of laying in, from the public stock, a year or two's supply at home." Surveying the state's political history up to 1830, and "calling to mind the prominent actors in the scenes of that day, the fierce struggles and quarrels amongst them, the loves and the hatreds, the hopes, fears, successes and disappointments of men, recently, but now no more on the stage of action, one cannot but be struck with with the utter nothingness of mere contests for office." The old and corrupt methods of politics were carried into the new state. "In those days," Ford said, "the people drank vast quantities of whiskey and other liquors; and the dispensation of liquors, or 'treating,' as it was called, by candidates for office, was an indispensable element of success at elections." The personal politics, intrigue, and disregard of the public welfare practiced in gaining election "were carried . . . into the legislature. Almost everything there was done from personal motives." Ford's message was simple: "Hitherto in Illinois the race of politicians has been more numerous and more popular with the people, than the race of statesmen."

Though Ford's views are exceptional for their disdain for the methods of politics, they have the ring of authenticity because of their lack of partisan flavor. Denunciations of politics and politicians in the nineteenth century were common, but they came most often as denunciations of the practices and practitioners of the opposite party. Ford spared almost no one; Democrat and Whig alike fell before his critical scythe.

Though nonpartisan in his criticism of politicians, Ford was nevertheless far from objective. His *History of Illinois* is colored by a prejudice not against any particular party but against parties themselves — or rather, against politics with or without parties. An especially revealing but little-known article on Ford's *History* in "The Illinois Bookshelf" column in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for March, 1945, explains the reasons for Ford's peculiarly jaundiced views of the ways of politicians. Despite being an elected official himself, Ford's political success was achieved with a minimum of political effort. In 1835 the state legislature elected him circuit judge. In 1837 he became judge of the Chicago municipal court. In 1839 the legislature elected him circuit judge again, and in 1841 he joined the Illinois Supreme Court. In 1842 the Democratic candidate for governor died, and Ford replaced him with only ten weeks remaining before the election. Despite little time for campaigning, he won election in this overwhelmingly Democratic state. Thus, Ford

served as Illinois's governor without much campaigning and without ever having seen the state legislature at work. What he saw when he gained office must have shocked him. Another factor was Ford's long, painful, and losing battle against tuberculosis. He wrote his *History* in order to gain money for his five children, made indigent by his inability to make a living during his illness. The *History* embodies the bitter observations of a dying man. Ford died in 1850, leaving his manuscript with James Shields, who finally found a publisher for it in 1854.

Despite Ford's shock and disdain for politics, when he wrote his *History*, he could think of no better system than the one he had experienced. In fact, one could legitimately read Ford's book as a sober defense of the two-party system and an attack on the sophistication of the electorate. Throughout his *History*, Ford insisted "that, as a general thing, the government will be a type of the people." Whenever he denounced politicians and politics, he qualified his criticism by laying the ultimate blame on the ignorance or indifference of the people who elected them.

Likewise, when he criticized the political system, he often noted that the alternatives to it were far inferior. Discussing the period in Illinois before the emergence of two-party politics, Ford said:

There are those who are apt to believe that this mode of conducting elections [by personal rather than party contests] is likely to result in the choice of the best materials for administering government. . . . The idea of electing men for their merit has an attractive charm in it to generous minds; but in our history it has been as full of delusion as it has been attractive. Nor has the organization of regular parties, and the introduction of the new principle in elections of "measures not men," fully answered the expectation of its friends. But if the introduction of such parties, supposed to be founded on a difference in principles, has done no other good, it has greatly softened and abated the personal rancor and asperity of political contests, though it has made such contests increasing and eternal. It is to be regretted, however, if there be evils attending the contests of party, that society cannot receive the full benefit from them by the total extinction of all mere personal considerations, personal quarrels, and personal crimination, not necessary to exhibit the genius and tendency of a party as to measures, and which are merely incidental to contests for office. The present doctrine of parties is measures, not men, which if truly carried out would lead to a discussion of measures only. But parties are not yet sufficiently organized for this; and, accordingly, we find at every election much personal bitterness and invective mingled with the supposed contests for

principle . . . . Perhaps the time may come when all these personal contests will be confined to the bosom of one party, in selecting the best candidates to carry out its principles. Ford could thus complain that parties were inadequately organized and denounce a party-less system, the dream of many an elitist critic of American politics.

Ford had no illusions about the workings of party politics; yet he recognized parties as, at worst, a necessary evil. He had a realistic view of party discipline:

The organization of men into political parties under the control of leaders as a means of government, necessarily destroys individuality of character and freedom of opinion. Government implies restraint, compulsion of either the body or mind, or both. The latest improvement to effect this restraint and compulsion is to use moral means, intellectual means operating on the mind instead of the old mode of using force, such as standing armies, fire, sword and the gibbet, to control the mere bodies of men. It is therefore a very common thing for men of all parties to make very great sacrifices of opinion, so as to bring themselves into conformity with the bulk of their party. And yet there is nothing more common than for the race of newspaper statesmen to denounce all such of the opposite party as yield their own opinions to the opinions of the majority, as truckling and servile. They may possibly be right in this. But undoubtedly such submission is often necessary to the existence of majorities, entertaining the same opinion. A little further experience may develop the fact, that when this means of securing majorities shall fail, the government will fall into anarchy.

Unlike many critics of politics and parties, Ford had no fear of majority will. His basic complaint was that majorities were poorly formed and represented, and that bipartisan measures frustrated any responsibility of politician or party to people. His criticism of the Internal Improvements Act of 1837, often pointed to as a glaring example of Lincoln's narrow Whig partisanship, was that it was advocated and passed as a bipartisan measure for the good of the whole state. "The vote in the legislature was not a party vote," said Ford, and

the banks were advocated and supported upon grounds of public utility and expediency; and like on the vote upon the internal improvement system, which followed at the next session, both whigs and democrats were earnestly invited to lay party feelings aside, and all go, at least once, for the good of the country. Whenever I have heard this cry since, I have always suspected that some great mischief was to be done, for which no party desired to be responsible to the people. As majorities have the power, so it is their duty to carry on the government. The majority, as long as parties are necessary in a free government, ought never to divide, and a portion of it join temporarily with the minority. It should always have the wisdom and courage to adopt all the measures necessary for good government. As a general thing, if the minority is anything more than a faction, if it has any principles, and is true to them, it will rally an opposition to all that is done by the majority; and even if it is convinced that the measures of the majority are right, it is safest for the minority to compel the majority to take the undivided responsibility of government. By this means there will always be a party to expose the faults and blunders of our rulers; and the majority will be more careful what they do.

Here Ford advocated the ultimate in the partisan ideal, the benefits of opposition to one party's program even when it seems to be a very proper program. This plea for disciplined, but responsible majorities looked forward to the proposals to institute in America cabinet government on the British model, proposals which were widely put forward towards the end of the nineteenth century.

As a theoretical commentator on the nature of party politics, Ford was unusual in his thoroughgoing defense of disciplined party majorities. In other respects, of course, he was a typical Democrat of his era. He thought that "no farmer ought ever to borrow money to carry on his farm." He blamed the internal improvements mania on "the general desire of sudden and unwarrantable gain; a dissatisfaction with the slow but sure profits of industry and lawful commerce, produced a general phrenzy." His ideal political system looked back to the storybook democracy of the early New England town:

My own opinion of the convention system is, that it can never be perfect in Illinois, without the organization of little township democracies, such as are found in New York and New England; that in a State where the people are highly intelligent, and not indifferent to public affairs, it will enable the people themselves to govern, by giving full effect to the will of the majority; but among a people who are either ignorant of or indifferent to the affairs of their government, the convention system is a most admirable contrivance to enable active leaders to govern without much responsibility to the people.

Thomas Ford's very good book has been used to very bad effect. Historians have used its strictures on the unsavory motives and methods of politicians to criticize political parties; yet Ford was himself a staunch defender of party politics. The book has been mined by historians but generally misread by them. Showing almost a tenderfoot's pique at the methods of state legislators, Ford has been seen as an unimpassioned and objective observer of party politics. The book should be used carefully by students of Lincoln's early political career, but it should be used. It deserves a better fate than historians have thus far allowed it.



From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. Thomas Ford as pictured in the Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois.



# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

July, 1979

Number 1697

## The Abraham Lincoln Association

As the train raced through the rolling Ohio countryside, one passenger, ignoring the scenery completely, was concentrating on his reading. The book was not the customary fiction of casual passengers or travelling salesmen; it was Lord Charnwood's *Abraham Lincoln*. The young man reading the book had a heavy brow and a craggy face. He looked like a football player. He read rapidly and purposefully, almost as if he were cramming for a final exam, but he was no schoolboy. He already had a master's degree and some experience as an insurance salesman and a peddler of school textbooks. That was all behind him now, and he was heading to Springfield, Illinois, for a job interview with an obscure organization called the Lincoln Centennial Association. The passenger knew very little about his potential employer, but he figured that he would have to know something about Abraham Lincoln. Though a history major in college, he knew almost nothing about Lincoln and was trying to learn as fast as he could on the train ride. He would have been worried, but it was 1925 and no one worried much about getting work. One could quit work on Friday and have another job on Monday.

Despite his lack of preparation, the young man landed the job as secretary of the Lincoln Centennial Association. This was the first in a series of shrewd judgments by the Association, for their new secretary was Paul M. Angle, a man destined to leave quite a mark on Lincoln scholarship and on important institutional collections of historical materials in Illinois.

Though Angle felt himself mired in clerical work (with no secretary, he took care of all the correspondence for memberships and herded schoolchildren to the Lincoln home and tomb), he quickly put the Lincoln Centennial Association on the map. Late in 1928 Angle read with almost gleeful amazement the first installment of "Lincoln the Lover" in the *Atlantic Monthly*. The article allegedly documented the Lincoln-Ann Rutledge romance, but it was based on some obvious and outrageous forgeries palmed off on the *Atlantic* by Wilma Frances Minor, a

San Diego newspaperwoman. Angle wasted no time in denouncing the forgeries. Since the *Atlantic Monthly* was the most prestigious literary magazine of its day, the denunciations gained wide coverage from the national press. About the only problem Angle faced in gaining acceptance of his critique of the Minor forgeries was the obscurity of his institutional affiliation. Newspaper editors all over the country wondered why any importance should be attached to the statements of the secretary of the Lincoln Centennial Association. The Association recognized the problem, and on February 12, 1929, the name was changed to The Abraham Lincoln Association.

The Lincoln Centennial Association had been organized in 1908 to prepare for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. It continued to mark Lincoln's birthday each year, bringing notable speakers such as William Howard Taft, Booker T. Washington, Vachel Lindsay, Henry Cabot Lodge, and Gutzon Borglum, but its purpose was purely celebratory.

In 1924 Yale graduate and Springfield lawyer Logan Hay became president of the Association and began to alter its purpose. Hay's grandfather was Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's second law partner. Lincoln's White House secretary John Hay was his cousin, and Milton Hay, who studied law in Lincoln's office, was Logan Hay's father. These associations gave Hay a deep interest in the life of Abraham Lincoln, and he wished to see the Association collect Lincoln-related documents and sponsor historical research on his life. The Association, he argued, should "contribute something solid and lasting to the understanding and appreciation of Lincoln's life." In 1924 the first volume of the *Lincoln Centennial Association Papers* appeared, and in 1925 the Association sought a secretary "trained in the special requirements of research work." This search brought Paul M. Angle to Springfield and to the field of Lincoln scholarship and collecting.

The Association hoped to turn the institution into a small historical society on the



Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

FIGURE 1. The Logan Hay Medal is the symbol of the Abraham Lincoln Association. Trygve Rovelstad designed the medal. It can be awarded only once a year to a person who makes a distinguished contribution to the Lincoln field. Service in areas ranging from public affairs and education to biography and literature are considered, but the recipient's work must further the goals established by the Abraham Lincoln Association.



*Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library*

FIGURE 2. Paul M. Angle.

model of the Massachusetts Historical Society. At first, Angle had trouble seeing any resemblance between his work and that of the distinguished society in Boston, but gradually he guided the Association's work towards very scholarly goals. He inaugurated a *Bulletin* and began work on several research projects, including a history of Springfield in Lincoln's era and a compilation of a day-by-day record of Lincoln's life. Several decades and secretaries later, this became the monumental *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology, 1809-1865*. By 1929 both Angle and Hay could see the need for publishing a definitive edition of Lincoln's works, but the Great Depression ended any hope of starting such an expensive long-range project.

As the depression worsened in 1932, Angle received an offer to take charge of the Illinois State Historical Library. In later years, Angle explained his reaction this way:

It seemed to me to be a very good idea. The Depression was approaching its nadir, and I concluded that the State of Illinois was far more likely to survive the debacle than the Lincoln Centennial Association. In short, I ran for cover. Although I have never regretted the decision, my prognosis was wrong. The State of Illinois cut salaries and missed a couple of payrolls; the Lincoln Centennial Association sailed through nicely. The experience led me to formulate a rule of action for times of economic disaster. Abandon the essential industries. Steel mills and automobile factories shut down, utilities lay off men by the hundreds, banks close. But historical societies and art museums and colleges and universities somehow keep going.

The Association made another fortunate choice in hiring as Angle's successor Benjamin Platt Thomas, a thirty-year-

old historian whose doctoral dissertation had dealt with Russian-American relations in the nineteenth century. Like Angle, Thomas was hardly an expert on Lincoln when he took the job, but he quickly established himself as a scholar of note—and as a writer of very smooth prose. The Association published *Lincoln's New Salem* in 1934, a book so delightful that it was destined for many reprintings. He continued work on the day-by-day series:

It involved an enormous amount of tedious, dirty work in newspaper collections, court files, legislative and congressional records, and a multiplicity of miscellaneous sources; but it did not lack thrills and satisfactions. The present writer (Thomas) . . . well remembers the days he spent in dingy courthouses, usually in the basement, turning the interminable pages of dusty ledgers, poring through grimy files long undisturbed. Invariably the clerks declared it was a waste of time—no Lincoln documents had been found for years. Yet, in every single instance documents were found, and in one courthouse they numbered a hundred or more.

In 1936 Thomas left the Association to go into business, and Harry E. Pratt became his successor. He maintained the tradition of grimy but detailed and fruitful research, his own specialty being Lincoln's personal finances. In 1943, the last year that Pratt worked at the Association, the organization published his *Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln*. Pratt also initiated publication of the *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly*. Angle was the editor, and the journal published articles and papers by many famous Lincoln scholars.

With Pratt's departure in 1943, the Association reached out all the way to Louisiana to get William E. Baringer, a professor of history at Tulane and already the author of *Lincoln's Rise to Power*. Before Baringer left, the Association began work on the project which would be its most lasting contribution to Lincoln scholarship, the publication of a definitive edition of the works of Abraham Lincoln. Roy P. Basler, who directed the work of the Association from 1947-1952, edited *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. In giving birth to this wonderful set of books, the most essential volumes in any Lincoln collection, the Association itself expired. The books were a historical success but a financial disaster.



*Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library*

FIGURE 3. Benjamin P. Thomas.



*Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library*

FIGURE 4. Harry E. Pratt.

The *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly* ceased publication. Basler went on to a distinguished career at the Library of Congress. The Abraham Lincoln Association was dead.

It was not forgotten, however, and, when new currents of historical enthusiasm began to sweep through Springfield, old-timers remembered the successes of the Association. Historical preservation rather than archival collecting, scholarship, and publishing seemed to be the greatest need, and the Abraham Lincoln Association was resurrected as a means for raising money to restore and furnish the Old State Capitol in Springfield. Illinois State Historian Clyde C. Walton, the head of the Illinois State Historical Library, became the first secretary of the revived Association, a job he held simultaneously with his larger job of overseeing the Illinois historical establishment. The Association revived the tradition of an annual banquet with big-name speakers, usually from the world of politics and government. In 1974 the Association linked up with its tradition of scholarship by establishing an annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium. Held on the anniversaries of Lincoln's birthday, the Symposia have featured scholars from all over the country. The 1980 Symposium will focus on the theme of Lincoln and race.

William K. Alderfer is, like Clyde Walton before him, both the Illinois State Historian and the secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association. He has represented the Association in planning for the Lincoln home area, designed to improve the environment of the Lincoln home by removing the unsightly and tawdry tourist traps and restoring a considerable area around the home to its nineteenth-century appearance.

The Association this year returns to still another of its successful methods of the past for encouraging Lincoln scholarship by publishing the *Papers of the Abraham Lincoln Association*. This annual publication will offer readers original articles on Lincoln as well as news of the Association's activities and members. The Association is confident that it is able to live up to the purposes outlined by Logan Hay in 1929: "To observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life, and

actively encourage, promote, and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career."

The Abraham Lincoln Association is now seeking new members. In addition to receiving the *Papers of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, members gain news of the availability of other Lincoln publications and invitations to the annual Symposium and banquet in Springfield. An annual membership costs \$15 (other forms of membership are available: donor, \$25; patron, \$50; and sustaining, \$100). Memberships are obtainable by writing to:

William K. Alderfer, Secretary  
Abraham Lincoln Association  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

A membership is a link with a grand tradition—with the first banquet, attended by Robert Todd Lincoln and addressed by William Jennings Bryan; with young Paul Angle, exposing the gullibility of the elitist *Atlantic Monthly* and striking a blow for careful scholarship against romantic sensationalism; with Thomas and Pratt, mining the courthouses of Illinois for nuggets of forgotten Lincolniana; and with sturdy reminders of this heritage on our landscape, the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln home area.

# THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN QUARTERLY

MARCH, 1946



THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 5. *The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly*, published by the Abraham Lincoln Association from 1940-1952, contained important articles by famous Lincoln scholars. Allan Nevins and J. G. Randall were among the distinguished authors, and articles covered a wide range of subjects from "Italy and Lincoln" to "Garrison and Lincoln." A set of these journals and a set of the earlier *Lincoln Centennial Association Papers* form essential parts of any Lincoln collection. The new *Abraham Lincoln Association Papers* are meant to follow in this tradition of Lincoln scholarship.

## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1978-1979

*by Mary Jane Hubler*

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, 50 Chatham Road, Harwich Center, Mass.; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Rd., Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louise Avenue, Northridge, California; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois; E. B. (Pete) Long, 607 S. 15th St., Laramie, Wyoming; Ralph G. Newman, 175 E. Delaware Place, 5112, Chicago, Illinois; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 1121 S. 4th Street Court, Springfield, Illinois. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above persons, or the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum.

1978

**CURRENT, RICHARD N.**                   **1978-13**  
 Unity,/Ethnicity, /&/ Abraham/Lincoln/Richard/N. Current/University Distinguished/Professor of History/University of North Carolina/at Greensboro/Louis A. Warren/Lincoln Library and Museum/Fort Wayne, Indiana/[Copyright 1978 by Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Permission to abstract is granted provided proper credit is allowed.]

Pamphlet, paper, 9" x 6", fr., 24 pp., illus. The first annual R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture delivered on May 11, 1978, in the Board Room at the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY**                   **1978-14**

Illinois/History/Volume 31/Number 5/February 1978/Abraham Lincoln/Lincoln's Presidential/Campaigns and Ours — New/Salem's Postmaster — A New/Face in Politics — Abraham/Lincoln, Whig — A Source/Embarassment — Abraham/Lincoln and the Writ of/Habeas Corpus — Armstrong/and the Almanac/(Portrait of Lincoln)/Abraham Lincoln/(Cover title)/[Copyright 1978 by the Illinois State Historical Society. Published by the Illinois State Historical Library in cooperation with the Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.] Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7 1/4", 99-119 pp., illus., price, 25¢.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**                   **1978-15**

Lincoln Memorial University Press/(Device)/Summer, 1978/Vol. 80, No. 2/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education./[Harrogate, Tenn.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", 53-111 (1) pp., illus., price per single issue, \$2.50.

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Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", 114-156 (1) pp., illus., price per single issue, \$2.50.

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Lincoln Memorial University Press/(Device)/Winter, 1978/Vol. 80, No. 4/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education./[Harrogate, Tenn.]

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Lincoln/In Portrait,/Print, And/Statuary/(Faint image of Lincoln facing slightly right)/(Cover title)/[Published in (1978) by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.]

Pamphlet, paper, 9" x 6", (20) pp., colored illustrations. (Form No. 15589.)

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A.. Lincoln (Facsimile signature)/(Scene of Lincoln at Antietam)/Commander in Chief/(Cover title)/[Published by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.]

Pamphlet, paper, 5 15/16" x 3 3/8", single sheet folded twice, illus. Form No. 16396.

**LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

**(1978)-20**

Lincoln's/Cabinet/of All/Factions/(Device)/(Cover title)/[Published by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 9" x 5 15/16", 32 (8) pp., including a page preceding and following the text containing a printed illustration on one side of the page with a plain black glossy texture on the other, illus. Form No. 16397.

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Pamphlet, flexible boards, 9" x 6", 20 pp., printing on inside front and back covers, illus. Form No. 16238.

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Abraham Lincoln and Cardiac/Decompensation/A Preliminary Report/Harold Schwartz, MD, Lakewood, California/(Caption title)/[February, 1978. Reprint from *The Western Journal of Medicine*. Published by *The Western Journal of Medicine*.]

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Book, paper, 9 1/4" x 6" fr., 87 (1) pp., illus. Autographed copy by author.

**LOUIS A. WARREN LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, THE**                   **1978-24**

Lincoln Lore/Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor. Published/each month by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801./Number 1679, January 1978 to Number 1684, June 1978.

Folder, paper, 11" x 8 1/2", 4 pp., illus. Number 1679, Thurlow Weed, The New York Custom House, And Mrs. Lincoln's "Treason," January 1978; Number 1680, The Democratic Party: A Respectable Minority?, February 1978; Number 1681, Black Images Of Lincoln In The Age Of Jim Crow, March 1978; Number 1682, Putting Lincoln Back Together Again, April 1978; Number 1683, Lincoln's Theory Of Representation: A Significant New Lincoln Document, May 1978; Number 1684, The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library And Museum, June 1978.

1979

**MOCHIZUKI, MASAHIRO**                   **1979-1**

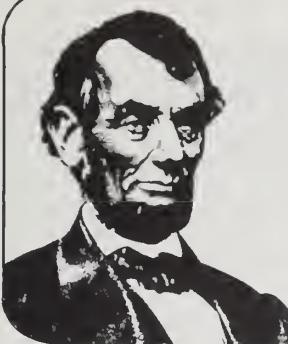
(Device)/(Portrait of Lincoln facing right)/(1809-1865)/16th President of U.S.A./Japanese printing/Lincoln Report/No. 21/February, 12, 1979/No. 21/(Japanese printing)/(Japanese printing)/Tokyo Lincoln Center/(Founded in 1961)/Masaharu Mochizuki, Director/2-1, Sarugaku-cho 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan/Phone 291-1860/Mail address: P.O. Box 5001, Tokyo International, Tokyo, Japan/(Cover title)/[Printed in Tokyo, Japan in both Japanese and English languages.]

Folder, paper, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", one sheet folded once with printing on all sides, illus. Contains listing of recent acquisitions on Lincoln in both Japanese and English languages, write up on Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Boorstin's visit to Japan, and an article on "Lincoln and Books."

**SCHOELWER, SUSAN PRENDERGAST AND MARTA G. O'NEILL**                   **1979-2**

Mr. Lincoln, Of Illinois/An Exhibition Of Original Materials From The/Lincoln Collection Of The Illinois State Historical Library/By/Susan Prendergast Schoelwer/Marta G. O'Neill/Chicago/The Chicago Public Library/Special Collections Division/Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall/10 February — 20 May 1979/[Copyright 1979 by The Chicago Public Library.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 9 3/4" x 7 7/16", fr., 66 (2) pp., illus., price, \$3.00. Limited edition of 1,000 copies.



# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.

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Number 1698

## JACK TAR AND ABE LINCOLN: HOW THE SAILORS VOTED IN '64

Voting in the field was a hot issue in Lincoln's day, and it has troubled historians ever since. As early as 1861, President Lincoln heard with favor General Benjamin F. Butler's proposal to recruit Massachusetts troops personally. What made the proposal attractive was the hope that this Democratic general could attract Democratic citizens who would otherwise stay home and vote against the Republicans. In 1862 David Davis worried that Republican Leonard Swett would lose the race in Lincoln's old congressional district in Illinois because loyal voters were in the ranks and away from home, leaving only the disloyal to vote the Republicans out. By 1864 most states had solved the problem by allowing soldiers to vote in the field. This did not solve the historian and political analyst's problem, however. Questions about the fairness of that voting remain. Was the Army overwhelmingly exposed to the blandishments of pro-administration newspapers and propaganda? Did the politics of the commanding officers prevent a free and fair election in their units?

These questions remain largely unanswered, and, in the arguments over them, one body of voters has been overlooked altogether: the men who voted, not in the field, but on the decks of the ships of the United States Navy. At first blush, it seems that these might safely be lumped with the soldiers; whatever historical and political factors explain the one should explain the other. A closer look at the correspondence of the harried politicians who struggled for Lincoln's reelection in 1864 shows that soldiers and sailors were, at least as voters, very different groups of men.

Although historians have largely forgotten the sailors' votes, politicians at the time did not. Thurlow Weed, "The Dictator" of New York Republican politics, became "so anxious about the Navy Vote" that on October 10, 1864, he wrote President Lincoln about the problem. And the sailors' votes did pose a special problem: how could an agent distribute ballots to men at sea without a seagoing vessel by which to reach them? They could not, and such vessels were not easy to come by for civilian purposes in wartime. In New



FIGURE 1. These men were potential voters — but for whom?

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

**FIGURE 2.** The ship that carried Weed's agent to the blockading squadron, the *Circassian*, is on the reader's right.

York City, Simeon Draper, Collector of the Port of New York and head of the enormous patronage-dispensing New York Custom House, wrote George Harrington, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, "for a steamer (Revenue cutter) to go to the Blockading Squadron." Harrington apparently failed to understand the important political purpose of the mission and failed at first to lend the cutter. Weed, however, telegraphed Harrington and was confident of a "a favorable answer."

Like all good political managers, "The Dictator" was inexhaustible in his efforts to seek out potential voters. While he worked on getting a revenue cutter to visit the blockading squadron, he also fretted about "the vote of the Sailors on the Mississippi" River. Weed wrote Frederick Seward, Secretary of State William H. Seward's son and his Assistant Secretary of State, "asking him to obtain a Government Steamer . . . to go from Cairo [Illinois] down the River to the different Gun Boats." If he succeeded in obtaining the necessary vessels, Weed promised President Lincoln, "we shall save many thousand Votes."

Weed's letter got immediate results. On October 11, 1864, Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward called on crusty Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy. Welles accommodated the President's request, but, as his diary entry for that day shows, the Navy Secretary distrusted anything which bore the stamp of approval of William H. Seward and his crafty manager Thurlow Weed:

The President and Seward called on me . . . relative to New York voters in the Navy. Wanted one of our boats to be placed at the disposal of the New York commission to gather votes in the Mississippi Squadron. A Mr. Jones was referred to, who subsequently came to me with a line from the President, and wanted also to send to the blockading squadrons. Gave permission to go by the *Circassian*, and directed commanders to extend facilities to all voters.

Much is said and done in regard to the soldier's vote, and many of the States not only have passed laws but altered

their constitutions to permit it. The subject is one that has not struck me favorably. I have not perhaps given the subject the consideration that I ought — certainly not enough to advocate it, and yet it seems ungracious to oppose it. Were I to vote on this question at all, I should, with my present impressions, vote against it.

The administration and the New York Republicans acted quickly, but not quickly enough. On October 21, one J. Springsteen wrote Weed from Cairo that he had arrived on Tuesday, but "There was no Boat to be had without waiting until they Could repair [the] dispatch Gun Boat *Volunteer* which would take till Friday or Saturday." Springsteen was "waiting patiently," but he feared "failure for the reason that [Democratic incumbent] Gov. Seymours agents were here some ten days ago Collecting the Votes here and then went on a Gun Boat for New Orleans Stopping all Boats they will meet." Weed's agent did what he could while marooned at Cairo. There and seven miles away at Mound City were six boats. On the *Great Western*, he found "about 30 from our State of which they [the Democrats] got all but Seven which I got." On the other five vessels, he reported gloomily, "we did not get a vote." The only redeeming feature was that few of the river sailors were from New York. Springsteen tried the twelve marines stationed at Cairo and got only one vote to the opponents' eleven.

Springsteen reported that the Democratic agents procured "a great many votes by Saying it is there only Chance." Apparently the agents told the sailors that no Republican agents were coming. He also found "a great dissatisfaction among the men that they are not paid." He had very little hope for favorable results from the rest of the vessels in the squadron of fifty boats.

News from the blockading squadron was little better. The excitable Weed scrawled a letter to President Lincoln, saying that the "Adversary is making the Canvass sanguinary." The political battle seemed desperate, and news from a Major Richardson, dispatched to get the votes from the blockading squadron, was bad. The major had written Weed from

Beaufort, North Carolina, to tell him he found "most of the Sailors against us." The explanation was simple: "They are largely Irish."

The dependence of the United States Navy on foreign-born seamen had long troubled naval reformers and Secretaries of the Navy. As early as 1825, Samuel Southard, Secretary of the Navy under President John Quincy Adams, had recommended excluding even naturalized immigrants from the service. In 1837 Congress sought a solution by passing a bill to recruit naval apprentices, eighteen years of age, who, they hoped, would be native Americans. Recruited mostly from the large cities on the coast which had a seafaring tradition, the apprentices themselves were frequently of foreign birth or parentage. In 1864 the ethnic composition of the United States Navy was a political problem for the Republican administration. Irish-Americans were consistently Democratic voters.

Thurlow Weed reported another problem to the President: "Another Agent writes to the State Committee that Admiral Lee is against us." Samuel Phillips Lee was an acting rear admiral, well connected in the Lincoln administration. He was Postmaster General Montgomery Blair's brother-in-law. He had fought at New Orleans in 1862, which gained him promotion to command the North Atlantic blockading squadron off Virginia and North Carolina. There he was most successful in capturing blockade-runners, but Gideon Welles thought his "caution runs into timidity." Lee was no man to command a fleet to attack Wilmington, North Carolina; he was "destitute of heroic daring." Therefore, Welles transferred Lee to the Mississippi River. The Blair family's origins were Democratic, and this Virginia-born brother-in-law was evidently a Democrat and not at all helpful to the Republican agents who came to distribute ballots to the river gunboats.

Just before the election, Weed conferred with Major Richardson, who had returned from his expedition "to collect Sailors votes" from the blockading squadron. Though "a most thorough man," Major Richardson was not successful.

"The Sailors are nearly all against us," Weed told the President. "The Officers generally were right," although "the Commander of one of the finest Vessels was hostile and abusive." The sailors opposed the administration, Weed reported, "for a simple but potent reason — *their Grog has been stop [ped]!*"

On September 1, 1862, the United States Navy stopped issuing the "spirit ration," long a target of temperance reformers and naval reformers. War and a moralistic Republican administration seem finally to have tipped the scale in the reformers' favor. Hard-drinking and tradition-bound seamen apparently detested the move. At the time of the American Revolution, sailors went to the revolutionary cause in overwhelming numbers because of the practice of British custom commissioners who inspected their personal sea chests for goods on which a duty was owed. Traditionally, these trunks had been exempt from such inspections; in fact sailors regarded their personal sea chests as sacred. They were also notorious for liking their grog, and the end of the spirit ration probably earned the administration the common sailors' undying hatred. Disrupting traditions of the sea was dangerous business.

Weed reported that Major Richardson "secured only about 500 Votes," a disappointing figure for the state of New York, which contained the nation's most important port and probably supplied an enormous percentage of the Union's sailors. The only silver lining to be found in this gloomy political cloud was that "the Adversary did not move in that direction." Though Governor Seymour was apparently diligent about the river fleet, the Democrats largely forgot the blockading squadron. The problem was probably not lack of cooperation with the Democrats by the Navy Department. Gideon Welles prided himself on keeping the Navy above partisanship.

President Lincoln, of course, was most grateful for the large role the Navy played in bringing Union victory in the Civil War. When he was invited to attend the National Sailors' Fair to be held in Boston right after the election, Lincoln wrote a



FIGURE 3. A Union river gunboat fleet meanders up a Southern waterway.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

**FIGURE 4.** Thurlow Weed's behavior during the Civil War seemed thoroughly out of character. In the past he had been largely indifferent to policy, but he became so upset at Lincoln's policies that he nearly broke with the administration.

gracious note in *lieu* of attending. He wrote the note, ironically, on election day:

Allow me to wish you a great success. With the old fame of the Navy, made brighter in the present war, you can not fail. I name none, lest I wrong others by omission. To all, from Rear Admiral, to honest Jack I tender the Nation's admiration and gratitude [.]

Lincoln was sincerely grateful for the sailors' services in the war, but politically he could have done without them. Jack Tar was a Democrat.

#### LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHED DEBATES: THE ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS COPY

This is the seventh article in a series on the signed presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois*. The copy bearing the inscription, "To Hon: Archibald Williams, with respects of A. Lincoln," was the property of Kenneth K. Bechtel of San Francisco when Harry E. Pratt wrote "Lincoln Autographed Debates" for *Manuscripts* in 1954. It is now the property of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. The library was unable to describe the book's history since Mr. Bechtel's ownership.

Archibald Williams was born in Kentucky in 1801. He came to Quincy, Illinois, in 1829. There he established a successful law practice. Quincy lay in what was called the Military Tract, the land between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers most of which had been granted as bounties to soldiers in the War of 1812. Most of the veterans were forced to sell their claims to Eastern land speculators. Some lost them in tax sales, not realizing their liability to pay taxes on the claims. Questions of priority of ownership and clarity of title racked the Military Tract, and it became a paradise for lawyers (who could get good fees from the well-heeled speculators and their agents). Williams was soon noted for his abilities as a lawyer in land disputes.

Williams became acquainted with Lincoln when both men served in the Illinois Legislature at Vandalia in the 1830s. The Quincy Whig served in the Illinois Senate from 1832-1836 and in the Illinois House from 1836-1840. Usher F. Linder remembered Lincoln and Williams sitting near each other in the southeast corner of the old State House in Vandalia; they were "great friends," he said. Legal work also brought the two men together. Lincoln was associated with Williams in several cases and apparently took some of the Quincy lawyer's cases on appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield.

Both former Kentuckians were Henry Clay Whigs. In 1848, when Lincoln dropped Clay for Zachary Taylor and some hope of winning, Williams was apparently slow to switch his loyalties. Lincoln told him flatly, "Mr. Clay's chance for an election, is just no chance at all." Both Williams and Lincoln were friends of Orville Hickman Browning, another Quincy lawyer and active Whig politician. "I know our good friend Browning," Lincoln told Williams, "is a great admirer of Mr. Clay, and I therefore fear, he is favoring his nomination." Lincoln instructed Williams to ask Browning "to discard feeling, and try if he can possibly, as a matter of judgment, count the votes necessary to elect him." Williams evidently jumped on the Taylor bandwagon, for, after the election, Lincoln wrote a letter recommending his appointment as U.S. District Attorney (Lincoln did not like the idea of rewarding holdouts for Clay's nomination with appointive offices). Williams gained the appointment and held office until the Democrats took over the Presidency in 1853. In 1852 he joined with Lincoln in organizing a meeting to express sympathy for Hungarian revolutionary Louis Kossuth.

In 1854 Williams joined the many Illinois Whigs who denounced the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He ran for Congress, but, even with Lincoln's help (he came to Quincy to make a speech in Williams's behalf), he lost. Williams evidently had designs on the United States Senate seat to be filled by the state legislature in 1855. Lincoln wanted the seat too, but he explained to a legislator apparently pledged to Williams: "Of course I prefer myself to all others; yet it is neither in my heart nor my conscience to say I am any better man than Mr. Williams." Despite their competing ambitions, Lincoln and Williams were evidently in substantial agreement on political principles in this tumultuous period of confusing politics. Lincoln told one supporter in 1855 that a set of resolutions Williams had drawn up fairly accurately described the ground on which he would be willing to "fuse" with other anti-Nebraska groups. Three years later Williams was once again mentioned as a competitor for the Senate seat Lincoln sought in his historic campaign against Stephen A. Douglas.

Ambition for office did not drive the two men apart. The copy of the *Debates* which Lincoln gave Williams is some evidence of this (Lincoln also gave Williams's law partner Jackson Grimshaw a signed copy). Even more important was President Lincoln's appointment of Williams as U.S. District Judge in Kansas.

Usher Linder remembered Williams as a man "over six feet high, and as angular and ungainly in his form as Mr. Lincoln himself; and for homeliness of face and feature, surpassed Mr. Lincoln." Linder also recalled that Lincoln thought highly of Williams as "the strongest-minded and clearest headed man he ever saw." Linder, who knew both men in the legislature, was a Universalist in religion and thought everyone would go to heaven. If he was correct in his "views of the mercies of God," Linder said long after his old friend Archie Williams was dead, "he is now walking the golden streets with Douglas and Lincoln."



# Lincoln Lore

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Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the

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February, 1980

Number 1704

## THE LAST BOOK LINCOLN READ

J.G. Randall said of Lincoln that the "continual interweaving of good fun in his writings and speeches shows that humor was no mere technique, but a habit of his mind." His fondness for humorous writers was lifelong. All students of Lincoln's tastes in reading note his affection for such humorists as Orpheus C. Kerr (a pun on "office seeker" and the pseudonym of Robert H. Newell). Petroleum V. Nasby (the pseudonym of David Ross Locke) was another favorite. The day Lincoln first presented the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet, he began the meeting by reading "High Handed Outrage in Utica," a humorous piece by Artemus Ward (the pseudonym of Charles Farrar Browne). Lincoln's penchant for reading aloud from comical books apparently persisted to his dying day, when he regaled old friends with anecdotes from *Phoenixiana; or, Sketches and Burlesques*.

John Phoenix was the pseudonym of George Horatio Derby. Born in Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1823, Derby graduated from West Point in 1846. He served with distinction in the Mexican War and later led several exploring expeditions in the West, mostly in California. A wit and a notorious practical joker, he first gained literary distinction in California in 1853, when he was put in temporary charge of the *San Diego Herald*, a Democratic newspaper. Derby was a Whig in politics, one of a great tradition of Whig humorists, and he quickly turned the newspaper on its head politically. California howled with laughter. In 1856 he published *Phoenixiana*, a collection of humorous sketches which became immediately popular.

Naturally, Lincoln was attracted to the Whig humorist. In his debate with Stephen A. Douglas at Freeport on August 27, 1858, Lincoln charged his opponent with inconsistency on the question of the power of states to exclude slavery from their limits. Douglas, Lincoln insisted, had once charged that the Democratic administration of James Buchanan was conspiring "to rob the States of their power to exclude slavery from their limits." Douglas withdrew the charge when Robert Toombs of Georgia stated that only one man in the Union favored such a move.

It reminds me of the story [Lincoln continued] that John Phoenix, the California railroad surveyor, tells. He says they started out from the Plaza to the Mission of Dolores. They had two ways of determining distances. One was by a chain and pins taken over the ground. The other was by a "go-it-ometer" — an invention of his own — a three-legged instrument, with which he computed a series of triangles between the points. At night he turned to the chain-man to ascertain what distance they had come, and found that by some mistake he had merely dragged the chain over the ground without keeping any record. By the "go-it-ometer" he found he had made ten miles. Being skeptical about this, he asked a drayman who was passing how far it was to the plaza. The drayman replied it was just half a mile, and the surveyor put it down in his book — just as Judge Douglas says, after he had made his calculations and computations, he took Toombs' statement.

The reporters covering the speech noted that "Great laughter" followed.

The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum recently acquired a copy of *Phoenixiana*, notable because it belonged to David Davis, Lincoln's friend and Judge for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Davis wrote his name and the date, "March 28th . . . 1856," in pencil on the back of the frontispiece. The Sangamon County Circuit Court was then in session in Springfield, and Lincoln argued before the Court that day. One cannot help speculating that Judge Davis very likely showed the book to his friend.

If Lincoln owned a copy of *Phoenixiana* himself, its present location is unknown. It seems likely that he did, however. The description of Lincoln's last day by Katherine Helm, Mary Todd Lincoln's niece, mentions the book. After their carriage ride in the late afternoon, President and Mrs. Lincoln separated. The President entered the White House with Richard J. Oglesby, the Governor of Illinois, and some other political friends. According to Miss Helm, Governor Oglesby later recalled:

Lincoln got to reading



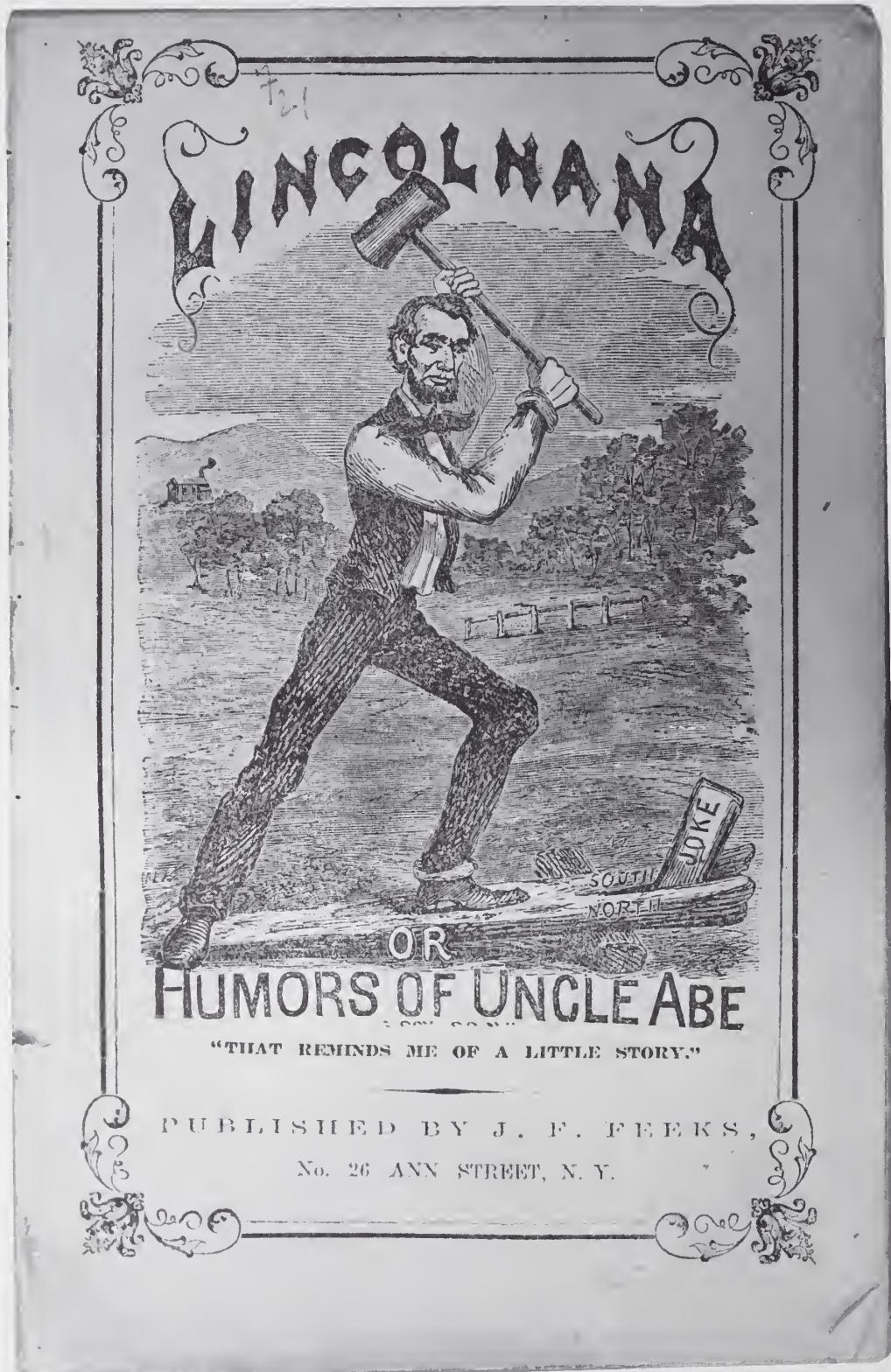
*Yours respectively  
John P. Squibob*

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

**FIGURE 1.** The frontispiece of *Phoenixiana*, shown above, has this note printed under it: "This autograph may be relied on as authentic, as it was written by one of Mr. Squibob's most intimate friends."

some humorous book — I think it was by "John Phoenix." They kept sending for him to come to dinner. He promised each time to go, but would continue reading the book. Finally he got a sort of peremptory order that he must come

to dinner at once. It was explained to me by the old man at the door that they were going to have dinner and then go to the theater.



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 2. *Lincolnana* was one of several cheap paperbacks published during the Civil War which capitalized on the President's reputation for enjoying humor. Though this trait endears Lincoln to us today, it was not universally admired in his own day. Note that the cover of this book shows him splitting the Union with a joke. Lincoln was often pictured as a vulgar jokester, too small for the great office he occupied.

## LINCOLN'S POLITICAL EDUCATION

President Lincoln gets high marks for political skill from almost all modern historians, but few have attempted to account for this skill. It often seems as though Lincoln burst from his mother's womb as a full-fledged politico, ready to wheel and deal, bestow patronage, and walk into a strong Presidency. Like everything else in Lincoln's life, however, political savvy came by dint of a gradual and difficult learning experience. In fact, Lincoln's political education may have been more difficult than his learning experience as a writer, a lawyer, or an orator. Politics can only be learned the hard way.

After his original apprenticeship under "Jerry Sly," the nickname of Lincoln's first law partner and political mentor John Todd Stuart, Lincoln learned the toughest lessons from Zachary Taylor. This is not to say that Lincoln had the close relationship with Taylor which he had with Stuart. Lincoln's political involvement with the Taylor Presidency, however, brought with it some stinging lessons the young Illinois legislator never forgot.

The Whig party in part grew from criticism of the organizational methods of the Democratic party, and Whigs, therefore, tended to be reluctant to adopt the organizational methods of the Democrats. Among Illinois Whigs, Lincoln and his close political allies like Anson G. Henry were leaders in urging better organization. Lincoln knew that this was the only hope of success for the party in his overwhelmingly Democratic state. In 1840 Lincoln wrote a confidential circular for the Whig State Committee suggesting that the way to "overthrow the *trained bands* that are opposed to us, whose salaried officers are ever on the watch, and whose misguided followers are ever ready to obey their smallest commands" was "to organize the whole State." The letter recommended the establishment of committees in every county to canvass voters to determine their preferences. When



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 4. Zachary Taylor.

Democrats seized on the circular as a campaign issue, Lincoln responded: "They set us the example of organization; and we, in self defence, are driven into it. . . . Let them *disband* their double-drilled-army of 'forty thousand office holders.'" Lincoln continued to "justify . . . urge . . . organization on the score of necessity." Still, Lincoln was Whig enough to tell John Todd Stuart, while advising him on local appointments after William Henry Harrison's election as President, "I am, as you know, opposed to removals to make places for our friends." Lincoln insisted on having some reason beyond mere partisan identification for removing officeholders.

Lincoln's Whig campaign address in 1843 continued to stress the necessity of organization. He favored the convention system for nominations, and he urged Whigs to run candidates for Congress in every district in the state, "regardless of the chances of success." He was still ahead of average Whig sentiment on these questions and "got thunder" as his "reward" for writing the address. When he served in the United States House of Representatives (1847-1849), Lincoln did what he could to gain offices and appointments for Whig allies, but there was little he could do. President James K. Polk was a Democrat and "could hardly be expected to give them to whigs, at the solicitation of a whig Member of Congress." Things changed with the election of Whig Zachary Taylor. Lincoln promised offices, for example, to Walter Davis: "When I last saw you I said, that if the distribution of the offices should fall into my hands, you should have *something*." In the end he shared a good deal of the power of distribution with incoming Whig Congressman Edward D. Baker of Galena. When he recommended a Whig appointee as Springfield's postmaster, Lincoln admitted that the only objection to the Democratic incumbent was that he was "an active partisan in opposition to us." He would "give no opinion . . . as to whether he should or should not be removed." He did not say, as he had to Stuart almost a decade before, that such men should not be removed.



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 3. John Todd Stuart.

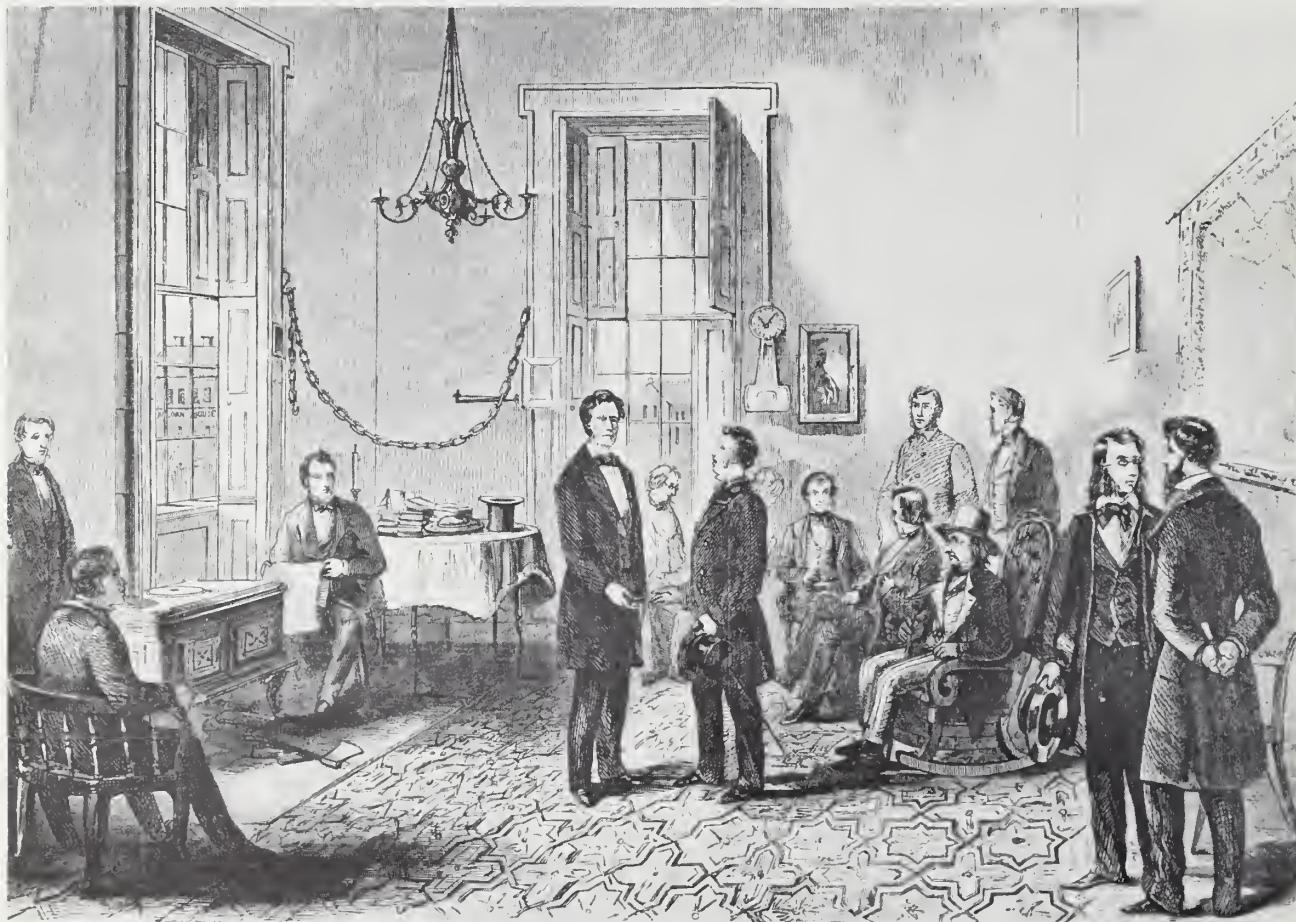
Since he did not run for reelection, Lincoln himself began to think of receiving a patronage appointment. But, he said frankly, "there is nothing about me which would authorize me to think of a first class office; and a second class one would not compensate me for being snarled at by others who want it for themselves." Eventually, Lincoln did become an aspirant for appointment to the lucrative General Land Office. He admitted that his major competitor, Justin Butterfield of Chicago, was "qualified to do the duties of the office," as were "quite one hundred Illinoisans." Lincoln argued that the office "should be so given as to gratify our friends, and to stimulate them to future exertions." Butterfield "fought for Mr. Clay against Gen Taylor to the bitter end," and it would "now mortify me deeply," Lincoln said, "if Gen. Taylors administration shall trample all my wishes in the dust."

Taylor's weak partisanship gave Lincoln a new appreciation for the importance of the patronage. Taylor, Lincoln realized, "will not go the doctrine of removals very strongly." Leaving many Democratic incumbents in office, Lincoln insisted, gave "the greater reason, when an office or job is not already in democratic hands, that it should be given to a Whig." If "less than this is done for our friends, I think they will have just cause to complain." The appointment of Butterfield doubtless accelerated Lincoln's appreciation for distributing the patronage to friends as the ultimate bond of party loyalty.

Lincoln was out of office and largely uninvolved in patronage matters for more than a decade before becoming President in 1861. He brought with him to the office the traditional habits of a good party man, toughened by the

unhappy experience of the Taylor administration and heightened by the organizational needs of a new party, the Republican, now enjoying its first taste of national office. Lincoln was widely criticized for spending too much time on petty patronage matters while the Nation fell apart into civil war. However, the Republican party was only six years old and was as yet a loose coalition of former Whigs, former Democrats, and former Know Nothings. Lincoln had to exercise great care in distributing the patronage to keep this new coalition together. For this task Lincoln was peculiarly well equipped, for, though no one appreciated loyalty more than he, Lincoln was also free of any vindictive spirit. When Republicans who had supported other candidates than Lincoln at the nominating convention in 1860 worriedly wrote him, Lincoln responded that such things were "not even remembered by me for any practical purpose." He would not go "back of the convention, to make distinctions among its' members."

Personal loyalty was one thing, but party loyalty was quite another. Lincoln initiated the most sweeping removal of federal officeholders in the country's history up to that time. Of 1,520 Presidential officeholders, 1,195 were removed; since most Southern offices were left unfilled, this was almost a complete overturn. He appointed Republicans to almost all of these jobs. Lincoln's administration, the President explained frankly in 1862, "distributed to it's party friends as nearly all the civil patronage as any administration ever did." Lincoln never forgot the lessons of the weakly partisan Taylor administration.



RECEIVING HIS VISITORS IN THE GOVERNOR'S ROOM IN THE STATE HOUSE, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. HENRI LOUTRE.

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 5. This comes as close as any contemporary picture to showing Lincoln in the act of distributing offices. After his election in 1860, Lincoln established a temporary office in the Illinois State Capitol to receive visitors. Needless to say, most of these visitors were seeking offices from the new administration either for themselves or their friends.



# Lincoln Lore

March, 1980

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1705

## "That Love Affair": Did William Makepeace Thayer Nearly Uncover the Mary Owens Romance?

Early in the summer of 1862, a Boston publishing firm, Walker, Wise, and Company, asked William Makepeace Thayer to write a book for boys on Abraham Lincoln's early life. Thayer, a Congregationalist minister from Massachusetts, was already locally famous for his boys' biography of Nathaniel P. Banks called *The Bobbin Boy*. Walker, Wise, and Company gave Thayer some letters and documents by John Locke Scripps, the Chicago author of one of the earliest campaign biographies of Lincoln, to prepare him for the task. Thayer planned to use the successful *Bobbin Boy* as a model. He would tell "the actual early life" of Lincoln as "a story, the imagination doing nothing more than to connect facts in the most natural way." This style was "more taking with the young" and allowed Thayer to follow a tested formula, inserting only the facts of another man's life. Thayer's object was "to show that 'the boy is father of the man,' showing the young that pluck and not luck makes the man, when it is accompanied with patience, perseverance, application, sobriety, honesty &c."

After about a month of work on the book, Thayer read a letter written from Lincoln's old Illinois friend, Orville Hickman Browning, to his publisher, Mr. Wise. It emboldened him to write Browning on July 18th, to inquire about more details of the President's early life. Thayer's letter, now in the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress, reveals in detail the origins of his fabulously popular work on Lincoln.

The didactic author asked first about Lincoln's schooling:

The President went to school some in Kentucky before he moved to Indiana[.] There is where I want to begin the story of his life. Is it possible for me to learn any thing about his father's employment then, in what kind of a house he lived, how poor they were,

whether he went to school in a house built for a school, was his father's house & was the school house of logs? What is the name of the town where he was born?

Like Scripps, Thayer was a sturdy Republican, and he naturally seized on the story of the Lincolns' departure from Kentucky. "His life by Mr. Scripps," Thayer continued, "says that his father left Kentucky because slavery oppressed the poor whites — could I learn any facts about that?" Lincoln had actually told Scripps that his father left Kentucky "partly on account of slavery; but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles in K[entucky]." Thayer would continue to stress the antislavery theme which appealed to Republicans.

As an Easterner, Thayer was anxious for the details of life on the frontier. He wanted to know about Lincoln's rolling logs and "going to huskings." He also sought information about those things which made frontier life more civilized. He asked for the names and addresses of "any of his pastors or teachers." He made a special point of asking for "Any facts relating to his temperance principles, & resisting temptations to drink." Descriptions of the baneful effects of heavy drinking before the rise of the temperance movement and admonitions against drinking would form a principal theme in Thayer's Lincoln biography.

Thayer wanted the names and addresses of the Lincolns' neighbors in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. He especially desired the address of Lincoln's stepmother, for he would place heavy emphasis on the role of the mother and stepmother in Lincoln's home. Thayer had already written to Mary Todd Lincoln but received no reply. He told Browning that he would like to correspond with her or, at least, with the Lincolns' eldest son, Robert.

One of Thayer's questions was extraordinary:

That love affair — I



THE PIONEER BOY.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. This illustration from Thayer's book showed the pioneer boy cutting down a tree with his father in the Indiana wilderness.



FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL.

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 2. The frontispiece of Thayer's book featured young Lincoln on his way to his first day in school.

should really like to learn the leading features of it, inasmuch as there is a matter of honor in it — a prominent part of my object is to show that his strict integrity has given him his *power of character*, which had as much to do with giving him the Presidency as anything.

*What love affair?* Scripps mentioned no romantic interests in Lincoln's life except his wife. Lincoln's romance with Mary Owens was unknown to the public until the appearance of Ward Hill Lamon's *Life of Lincoln* in 1872. How did Thayer know anything about any "love affair" before Mary Todd?

The answer must lie in Browning's letter to Wise, but the location of that letter is unknown. Browning did know about the Mary Owens affair. Lincoln's famous April Fools' Day letter about it was written to Browning's wife in 1838. That letter made a particular point of Lincoln's desire to do the honorable thing. Having promised to marry Mary Owens, he would live up to the promise even though he did not particularly want to marry her. Why Browning would have written Wise about the matter is unclear. Browning's diary shows that he was acquainted with a Mr. Wise from Boston before the war, but it is not clear whether this was the man associated with Thayer's publishing firm. Lincoln's letter about Mary Owens was old and entirely private, and it was hardly a proper subject for idle conversation, even with a close friend. In the wrong hands, it could have been fuel for ridicule of the President. Even if Browning mentioned it to Wise, it seems strange that Wise would have shown Browning's letter to Thayer without Browning's permission.

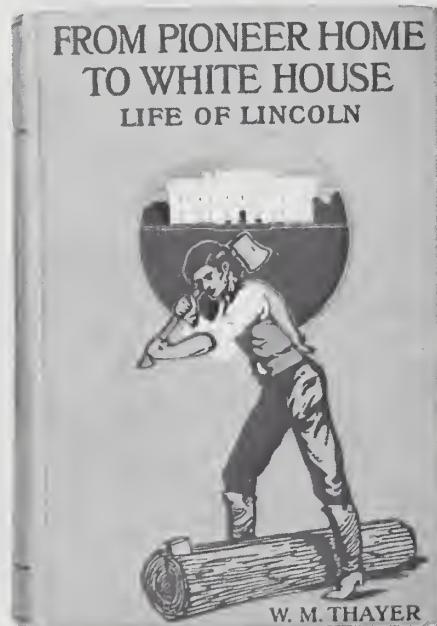
Years later, William Henry Herndon uncovered most of the details of the Mary Owens affair. It was a piece of detective work of which he was proud. Herndon had heard a story — he did not know whether it was true — "that during his term as President the lady to whom it was written — Mrs. O. H. Browning, wife of a fellow-member of the legislature — before giving a copy of it to a biographer, wrote to Lincoln asking his consent to the publication, but that he answered warning her against it because it was too full of truth." Thayer's letter makes Herndon's story somewhat plausible.



THE FIRST LETTER

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 3. Lincoln wrote his first letter, Thayer said, to obtain a preacher for Nancy Hanks Lincoln's funeral.



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 4. Still popular in the 1920s, Thayer's expanded book featured more sophisticated art work on the cover.



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

**FIGURE 5.** The 1882 edition of Thayer's expanded book featured on the cover, of all things, a football player.

We may never know. In the end, Thayer did not mention any romance in his book. On July 26, 1862, Browning saw President Lincoln at the White House and "read him a portion of the letter." Lincoln asked him to leave the letter with him. Browning did so, and thus the letter now appears in the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress. As far as is known, Lincoln never replied to Thayer's letter. *The Pioneer Boy, and How He Became President* appeared in 1863 and was a great success. Seven thousand copies had been printed by the end of 1863, and eighteen thousand were in print in 1864. An 1865 edition noted that twenty-eight thousand copies had been printed. He expanded the book in 1882 and sold about sixty thousand copies by the end of the century. Though no longer read, Thayer's book was, for a time, the most complete biography of Lincoln, and its rags-to-riches theme was clearly a formula for successful writing in Lincoln's century.

## Some New Light on the Matson Slave Case

Of the handful of Abraham Lincoln's legal cases which are widely known, the Matson slave case is by far the most controversial. The anomaly of the Great Emancipator's involvement on the side of a slaveholder in this fugitive slave case has vexed and puzzled historians for decades. Early biographies tended to ignore it altogether. Later, some writers tried to explain it away by suggesting that Lincoln had so little taste for this species of litigation that he performed poorly in court, lost the argument, and thus allowed the fugitives to go free. Historians in recent years have been content to admit that Lincoln was a complex man, not always consistent, and to emphasize the rapid growth of his anti-slavery feelings in the later years of his life. All of this literature, however, has been consistent in focusing on the lawyer's personal moral dilemma. The legal issues involved

in the case have been substantially ignored.

The Matson slave case was a hearing for a writ of *habeas corpus* in behalf of Jane Bryant and her four children. They were the slaves of Robert Matson, a Kentucky planter who owned land in Coles County, Illinois. Matson brought slaves to Illinois to farm the land every year but always returned them after harvest, thus avoiding any claim that his slaves were permanent residents on Illinois's free soil and, therefore, entitled to freedom. Matson employed Jane's husband, Anthony, as a permanent overseer on the Illinois farm. This was strictly legal, for Anthony was a free man.

In 1847 Jane Bryant had a serious falling-out with Matson's white housekeeper, who may have been the master's mistress. Anthony began to fear that the housekeeper might persuade Matson to sell Jane and the children South. The housekeeper had threatened to do so, and she appeared to be in a position to make her threat stick. Anthony sought the help of Gideon M. Ashmore and Hiram Rutherford, local antislavery men. They kept Jane and the children at Ashmore's inn in Oakland, Illinois. Matson sought the remedy of law to gain the return of his property. He employed attorney Usher F. Linder, who managed to have the slaves confined to the jail in Charleston, the county seat of Coles County. Ashmore and Rutherford obtained a writ of *habeas corpus*, demanding Illinois's reasons for confining the fugitives, and a hearing was held before Judges Samuel H. Treat and William Wilson on October 16, 1847.

Lincoln came to Coles County and was also engaged on Matson's side. The opposing attorneys, Orlando B. Ficklin and Charles H. Constable, argued that the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Illinois Constitution made the slaves free by virtue of their residence on the soil of a state where slavery was illegal. Lincoln apparently argued that Jane Bryant was a seasonal worker following a long-accepted custom and was in no way a legal resident of the state. The judges ruled in favor of the slaves and declared them free.

The aforementioned facts in the case are common knowledge. New light comes from Don E. Fehrenbacher's *The Dred Scott Case: Its Significance in American Law and Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1978). Professor Fehrenbacher explains that the legal difference between "domicile" and "sojourn" in a free state was a commonplace distinction in American jurisprudence in Lincoln's day. In Pennsylvania, for example, a master could remain in the state with his slaves for six months without affecting the legal status of the slaves. New York allowed a nine-month sojourn with slaves. In 1843 the Illinois Supreme Court had affirmed a master's right of sojourn in the state with his slaves, saying that to deny it would "tend greatly to weaken, if not to destroy the common bond of union amongst us." In the 1840s, however, New York and Pennsylvania revoked their laws allowing sojourn with slaves, and courts in other Northern states began to rule that slaves were freed merely by touching free soil. In the Matson case, some of Illinois's judges followed the new trend.

John J. Duff argued in *A. Lincoln: Prairie Lawyer* (New York: Rinehart, 1960) that Lincoln performed well in the case and that Ficklin and Constable performed poorly. All they had to do to assure her freedom, Duff claimed, was to cite as precedent the decision in *Bailey vs. Cromwell* — in which Lincoln himself had gained freedom for a Negro girl named Nance by arguing that the Illinois Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance prevented her being a slave in the state! Duff's argument betrays his lack of understanding of the issues in the Matson case. The issues in *Bailey vs. Cromwell* were altogether different. Nance was a resident of Illinois, an indentured servant rather than a slave. The Supreme Court ruled that Illinois law presumed a person free without any proof to the contrary, and Nance's "owner" could not produce that proof. The important point is that she lived in Illinois. *Bailey vs. Cromwell* had nothing to do with "domicile" and "sojourn."

The real marvel in the case is the reasoning of Treat and Wilson. Both men had been members of the Illinois Supreme Court in 1843, when it affirmed the right of sojourn with slaves in the state!

In the Matson slave case, Lincoln and Linder had the law on their side but not the judges.

## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1979

*by Mary Jane Hubler*

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, 50 Chatham Road, Harwich Center, Mass.; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Rd., Garden City, N.Y.; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louise Avenue, Northridge, California; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois; E.B. (Pete) Long, 607 S. 15th St., Laramie, Wyoming; Ralph G. Newman, 175 E. Delaware Place, 5112, Chicago, Illinois; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 1121 S. 4th Street Court, Springfield, Illinois. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above persons, or to the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum.

1979

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION 1979-12**

Papers of the Abraham Lincoln Association/Volume 1 1979/Foreword/By Floyd S. Barringer, President, Abraham Lincoln Association/Introduction/By William K. Alderfer, Secretary, Abraham Lincoln Association/The Lincoln Theme Since Randall's Call: The Promises And Perils Of Professionalism/By Mark E. Neely, Jr., Fort Wayne, Indiana/Lincoln: Democracy's Touchstone/By David R. Wrone, Stevens Point, Wisconsin/Abraham Lincoln Association/1979/Editors/Mary Ellen McElligott Janice Petterchak/[Copyright 1979 by the Abraham Lincoln Association.]

Book, paper, 8 15/16" x 6", 91 (1) pp., illus. Yearly membership dues include a subscription to this publication. Request for information should be directed to William K. Alderfer, Secretary, Abraham Lincoln Association, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

**O'TOOLE, G.J.A.**

1979-13

The / Cosgrove / Report: / Being the Private Inquiry/of a Pinkerton Detective into/ the Death of President Lincoln/(Device)/by Nicholas Cosgrove/(Device)/Edited And Verified By/ Michael Croft,/Col., U.S. Army (Ret.)/(Device)/An Annotated Novel/ Presented By/G. J. A. O'Toole/ (Device)/ Rawson, Wade . New York/[Copyright 1979 by George O'Toole. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 9 3/16" x 6 1/8", viii p., 424 pp., illus., price, \$12.95.

**DAVIS, CULLOM,  
CHARLES B. STROZIER,  
REBECCA MONROE  
VEACH AND GEOFFREY  
C. WARD 1979-14**

1979-14

The Public and the Private/Lincoln/Contemporary Perspectives/Edited by/ Cullom Davis/Charles B. Strozier/Rebecca Monroe Veach and Geoffrey C. Ward/ Southern Illinois University Press/Carbondale and Edwardsville/Feffer & Simons, Inc. London and Amsterdam/(Double title page)/[Copyright 1979 by Sangamon State University. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 9 1/4" x 6 1/8", x p., 182 pp., price, \$18.95.

**FEHRENBACHER, DON E.**

1979-15

The/Minor/Affair/An Adventure/in Forgery/and Detection/ Don E./Fehrenbacher/William Robertson Coe/ Professor of History and/American Studies/Stanford University/Louis A. Warren/Lincoln Library and Museum/Fort Wayne, Indiana/[Copyright 1979 by the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Permission to abstract is granted provided proper credit is allowed.]

Pamphlet, paper, 9" x 5 15/16", fr., 40 pp., illus. The second annual R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture delivered on May 10, 1979, in the Board Room at the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**FINDLEY, PAUL**

1979-16

A. Lincoln:/The/Crucible of/Congress/by/Paul Findley/ Crown Publishers, Inc., New York/[Copyright 1979 by Paul Findley. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 10 1/4" x 7 1/4", xvii p., 270 (1) pp., illus., price, \$14.95.

**FORGIE, GEORGE B.**

1979-17

Patricide/In The/House Divided/A Psychological Interpretation/of Lincoln and His Age/George B. Forgie/(Device)/W.W. Norton & Company . New York/[Copyright 1979 by W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. All rights reserved. First edition.]

Book, cloth, 8 1/4" x 5 1/4", x p., 308 (2) pp., price, \$14.95.

**HAMILTON, LEE DAVID**

1979-18 a

Lee David Hamilton/The Lincoln Bookcalendar/1980/(Illustration of two Lincoln busts facing each other, bust on left by Leo Cherne, sculptor, is bearded and bust on right by

Leonard Wells Volk, sculptor, is beardless)/(Cover title)/ [Copyright 1979 by Lee David Hamilton. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or in part, is prohibited. Bookcalendar copyright and Calendarbook copyright in 1979. Published by The Prairie River Press, Post Office Box 8, Greenville, Wisconsin 54942.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 8 1/2" x 7", 60 pp., illus. Bookcalendar on Lincoln contains text, plain and colored illustrations, and a 1980 calendar.

**HAMILTON, LEE DAVID**

1979-18 b

Same as above with additional feature on cover title following 1980 of: (Lincoln Profile)/ Lincoln/National/Life/ This Bookcalendar ed. was printed specifically for and contains (2) pp. additional text on the Lincoln National-Life.

**HOLZER, HAROLD**

1979-19

How the Printmakers Saw Lincoln/Not-So-Honest Portraits of "Honest Abe"/Harold Holzer/(Caption title)/[Offprint from Winterthur Portfolio. Copyright 1979 by The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.]

Pamphlet, paper, 11" x 8 1/2", 143-170 pp., illus., price, \$2.35.

**ILLINOIS STATE  
HISTORICAL LIBRARY**

1979-20

Illinois/History/Volume 32/ Number 5/February 1979/

Abraham Lincoln/Family Pets—Lincoln's Visit to Macomb—Diligence Breeds/Success—Railroaders and/Rivermen— An Affectionate/Farewell—Give No Offense—By All These Hands—A Week/ of Waiting—On January First/(Portrait of Lincoln facing right)/ Abraham Lincoln/(Cover title)/ [Copyright 1979 by the Illinois State Historical Society. Published by the Illinois State Historical Library in cooperation with the Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 9 15/16" x 7 1/4", 99-119 pp., illus., price, 25¢.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

1979-21

Lincoln Memorial University Press/(Device)/Summer, 1979/Vol. 81, No. 2/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education./[Harrogate, Tenn.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", 61-139 (1) pp., illus., price per single issue, \$3.00.

**The Public  
and the Private  
Lincoln**

Contemporary Perspectives

Edited by  
Cullom Davis,  
Charles B. Strozier,  
Rebecca Monroe Veach,  
and Geoffrey C. Ward





# Lincoln Lore

January, 1981

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
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Number 1715

## The Political Life Of New Salem, Illinois

Lincoln's earliest political surroundings have always somewhat baffled scholars. The reasons for this are many and varied. Inadequate documentation and Whigerry's marginal existence as almost a subculture in Democratic Illinois are two factors. A third, perhaps more important, is the unpopularity of the Whig party among historians. Much of the best work on Lincoln was produced at a time when historians were prejudiced against the Whigs. Most writers liked Lincoln well enough, but they disliked the party to which he devoted the greater part of his political life (he was a Whig twice as long as he was a Republican).

Only recently have historians come to have a greater appreciation for the importance, one might almost say the vision, of the Whig party. G.S. Boritt comes immediately to mind for those who work in the Lincoln field, but there are others, such as Daniel Walker Howe, who have been giving the Whigs a fairer shake. This new work has gained attention and made historians think. It has not yet stemmed the tide, and more students should be reevaluating Lincoln's early political environment.

All in all, the effect of the modern unpopularity of Whigerry on the study of Lincoln's early career has been to keep the number of such studies small and to emphasize Lincoln's personal popularity. Nowhere has this emphasis been more pronounced than in the work on Lincoln in New Salem.

Studies of New Salem rarely focus on the political life of the town in which Lincoln forged his early career. Historians have generally shied away from characterizing the town as Whig or Democratic. Most say only that it was democratic (with a small "d") and that this openness accounts for

Lincoln's opportunity to have a political career despite his "defective" education, his inability to settle into a successful vocation, and his penniless and debt-ridden economic status. The beginnings of Lincoln's career in the Illinois legislature seem to represent a triumph of personal popularity and of the American political system. That it was also a triumph of one political party over another rarely gains mention, much less careful consideration.

Here inadequate documentation is *not* a problem. The opportunity to understand Lincoln's political career before the 1850s is probably greater than for any other of America's political giants. Illinois's voters showed their preference at the polls orally, and clerks carefully marked how each citizen voted. Therefore, we know in Lincoln's case precisely—by name—who voted for him and against him. Knowledge like this is unobtainable even for twentieth-century politicians or contemporary elections. We know for sure who voted for Lincoln, something we can never know in the cases of Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, or even Ronald Reagan.

### Who Voted for Lincoln?

The records do not exist for every precinct in every election, but a substantial number have survived. The poll books for the election of August 1, 1836, in New Salem precinct still exist. Lincoln was running for reelection to the Illinois House of Representatives. Sangamon County, of which New Salem was still a part, was to choose seven Representatives, and each voter could vote for as many as seven House candidates. Voters also chose a Congressman, a state senator, and

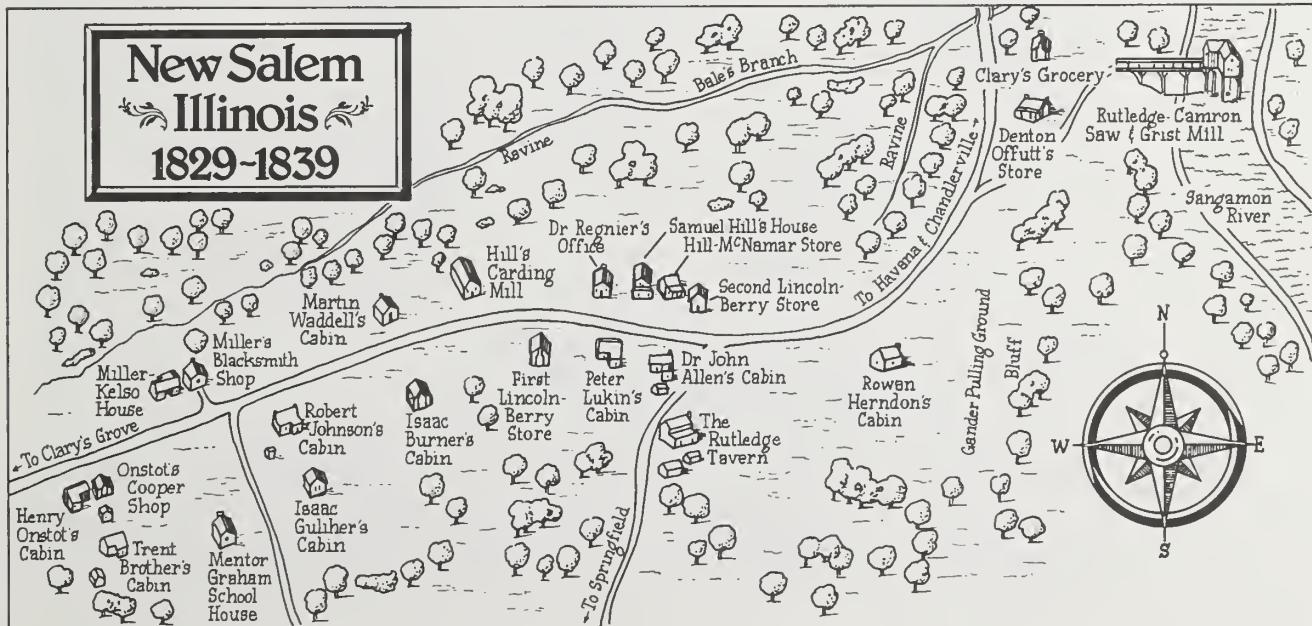


FIGURE 1. Map of Lincoln's home town from 1831 to 1837.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

various county officials. For this election, incidentally, there were two New Salem precinct polling places, a fact not previously mentioned in the literature. Only one of them was in tiny New Salem proper. The other was outside of the town, probably to the west and perhaps to the northwest. Both polling places drew voters from a wide area, and the polling place in New Salem itself attracted many more than the 25 to 50 voters who lived in the town.

The New Salem poll books show that it was a Whig town. John Todd Stuart, the Whig candidate for the United States House of Representatives, gained 86 votes to Democrat William L. May's 59. In the race for the state senate, Whig Job Fletcher outpolled Democrat Moses K. Anderson 73 to 67. In the races for the lower house, five of the seven Whigs gained more votes than any Democrat. Lincoln led the pack with a whopping 107 votes from the 145 voters who came to the polling place. He was followed by William Elkin with 84, Ninian W. Edwards with 84, John Dawson with 82, Dan Stone with 81, Robert L. Wilson with 69, and Andrew McCormick with 67. Lincoln students, of course, recognize these as members of the Long Nine. Thomas Wynne led the unsuccessful Democrats with 71 votes. He was a local man, and no other Democrat topped any Whig's votes in New Salem.

Thus the New Salem poll books also reveal Lincoln's immense local personal popularity, a factor properly noted by historians of the past. One should not ignore the partisan cast of New Salem, however. The peculiar system of voting on many candidates to represent Sangamon County in the legislature allowed for considerable ticket-splitting. Likewise, the rather tentative nature of party formation in Illinois at this date meant that the discipline or regularity of the voters was weaker than it would be in the 1840s, when ticket-splitting became rare. Richard P. McCormick, the outstanding expert on the formation of the Whig and Democratic parties characterizes the party situation in Illinois before 1835 as "chaos." Preparation for the 1836 Presidential election served to coalesce the voters somewhat and saw the Democrats institute a convention system for nominations. The opposition to the Democrats was still only loosely organized and did not put together a modern party organization until about 1840. Thus the degree of party regularity in New Salem was substantial under the conditions. One might say that in 1836 there were about 80 Whigs and about 60 Democrats.

Modern-day visitors to New Salem State Park might get a new feeling about the quaint pioneer village as they meander through it by keeping in mind the Whiggish cast of the town itself. Of course, the reconstructed village does not represent the town at one particular time. It represents a sort of average of a six-year period. Different people lived in the log houses at different times, and it is not possible to identify the politics of all its inhabitants.

Nevertheless, entering the village from the west, one first

encounters Henry Onstot's cabin. In 1836 he voted for Stuart, Lincoln, and the other six Whig candidates for the lower house. The Trent brothers' cabin to the south was full of Democrats. Alexander, Henry, and William Trent voted for May and, with one exception, for the Democratic candidates for the lower house. Alexander Trent, a veteran of Lincoln's company in the Black Hawk War, split his ticket to vote for his old captain, Joshua Miller and John A. "Jack" Kelso married sisters and lived in a double house north of Onstot's cooper shop. Both men were Whigs. Martin Waddell, the hatter, lived next door to Miller's blacksmith shop. Waddell was also a Whig. To the south of these residences lay Robert Johnson's cabin, Isaac Guliher's cabin, and Mentor Graham's schoolhouse. Johnson, a wheelwright and cabinetmaker, voted Whig. Guliher did not vote; perhaps he had moved on from New Salem. Graham lived outside town, but he came to town to vote for Stuart, Lincoln, and five Whig candidates for the lower house. He also voted for Thomas Wynne, a Democrat, for the state legislature.

Isaac Burner did not vote in New Salem in 1836. Alexander Ferguson, who had succeeded Peter Lukins as the local shoemaker, was a Democrat. The town's leading businessman Samuel Hill, Dartmouth-educated Dr. John Allen, and Dr. Francis Regnier were Whigs. The rest of the cabins on the east side of town were shops except the old Herndon cabin, the occupants of which in 1836 are unknown.

#### The Myth of the Clary's Grove Boys

The other New Salem precinct in 1836 was less solidly Whig. Lincoln got 50 of its 76 votes, but May edged Stuart, 40 to 34. In this area of Sangamon County, Lincoln's personal popularity did triumph over local political preference. The names of the voters at this unlocated poll include many of those associated with the Clary's Grove, Concord, and Sandridge areas.

A special mythology surrounds these residents of New Salem's outskirts. The "Clary's Grove boys," as they are called, were representatives of what some historians call the



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 2. Joshua Miller's reconstructed blacksmith shop in New Salem.

first frontier. They were rough, fun-loving, and boisterous men of rather unsteady habits. Lincoln, the artisans, doctors, and businessmen of New Salem were men of the more settled second frontier. Lincoln's ability to capture the friendship of the Clary's Grove boys has always gained considerable attention from his biographers. First, it really was important. As members of his company in the Black Hawk War in 1832, the Clary's Grove boys had a hand in Lincoln's first political success: his election as captain of the unit. Second, the way he gained their respect—the famous wrestling match with Jack Armstrong—is the anecdotal stuff of which readable biographies are made. Unlike some important events, this one offers the bonus of making a good story.

Finally, Lincoln's friendship with the Clary's Grove boys has been the focus of much attention because of the peculiar importance of the American West to historians in the period when much of the great writing on Lincoln occurred. In the 1890s, Frederick Jackson Turner's "frontier thesis" identified American democracy and individualism with the West. The frontier was supposed to be the cutting edge of the experience that made America, America and not a pale imitation of the European culture from which most Americans stemmed. For Lincoln to capture the hearts and minds of the Clary's Grove boys was vital to the process by which he maintained his status as the ideal American statesman to most historians. This showed that, despite Lincoln's choice of the law as a vocation and his political and personal friendships with bankers and businessmen, he was linked to the vital experience that forged American democracy.

Scholarship has moved on since those times, and the frontier experience has greatly diminished in importance in the works of American history. The residue of this once important story remains in Lincoln biographies. Oscar and Lilian Handlin's recent *Abraham Lincoln and the Union* notes that Lincoln was "Equally at ease with the boys in the Clary's Grove gang and with the Reverend Cameron." A more important book, Stephen B. Oates's fine *With Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, carries the idea a bit farther. Describing Lincoln's campaign for the legislature in 1836, Oates says, "On the campaign trail, Jack Armstrong and the Clary Grove boys sang Lincoln's praises and helped keep order at his political rallies." Oates merely states explicitly what is implied in most of the Lincoln literature that preceded his book.

Jack Armstrong may have campaigned in 1836, but he did not vote, either in the state election in August or in the national election in November. And the Clarys were certainly Democrats. John, Spencer, and Zack Clary voted in the New Salem precinct in 1836. Spencer and Zack voted for William L. May and for the seven Democrats seeking seats in the Illinois House. John Clary split his ticket, voting for Stuart, Lincoln, and three other Whig aspirants to the legislature as well as for four Democrats running for the legislature. The Clarys voted in the poll outside New Salem. The other families associated with the Clarys have never been precisely identified, and the Clarys and Armstrongs may not have spoken for all the "boys." Nevertheless, this is not the stuff of which loyal campaign workers are made, and it seems almost certain that the Armstrongs and Clarys were no part of Lincoln's canvass for the Illinois House of Representatives in 1836. Politically, Lincoln was much more at home on the streets of New Salem than in Clary's Grove.

#### Whigs and Democrats in the Developing West

New Salem was solidly Whig. In the Presidential election the following November, the town's voters gave 65 votes to Hugh Lawson White and only 34 to Martin Van Buren (only one poll book for the precinct exists). Dr. Allen, Caleb Carman (at whose house, probably the Trents' former home, the poll was located), Robert Johnson, Jack Kelso, Lincoln, Joshua Miller, Dr. Regnier, and Martin Waddell voted for White. Alexander Ferguson and the Trents (who had apparently moved outside town) voted Democratic. Mentor Graham, who also resided outside New Salem, voted Whig.

Lincoln left New Salem for Springfield before the next election. In 1838 he again ran successfully for the Illinois legislature. New Salem had changed. Its citizens shared with most other residents of northwestern Sangamon County a



*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*

**FIGURE 3.** New Yorker Martin Van Buren's lack of popularity in the West spurred Whig organization in 1836.

desire to form a new county with, of course, a new county seat. Lincoln and the rest of the Long Nine, busy with internal improvements bills and the drive to move the state capital to Springfield, were unresponsive. New Salem's residents registered their dismay at the polls in 1838. The Whigs lost ignominiously. Lincoln led the Whig candidates for the lower house of the legislature with a paltry 31 votes out of 122 (almost double the total of any other Whig candidate for the Illinois House but not even a third of what the Democratic candidates got). Even Lincoln's local popularity could not overcome the disappointment of New Salem's citizens. John Todd Stuart, who was immune from the county-division conflict in Washington, ran ahead of Lincoln with 39 votes but well behind his Democratic opponent, Stephen A. Douglas, who gained 81 votes. A few remained faithful to Lincoln (Waddell, Kelso, Carman, Miller, and Graham), but even they split their tickets, usually voting for Democrats for the other legislative seats. Feeling for division of the county all but obliterated party regularity.

Lincoln was gone from New Salem by then, and his popularity and that of the Whig party in the rest of Sangamon County swept him to victory anyway. It is the experience before 1838 that is important, and it really is important. This is not a quaint exercise meant to add some of the bright color of partisanship to your next tour of New Salem State Park, though lack of attention to party politics is a notable failing of historical reconstructions, which usually ignore partisanship for the sake of a bland patriotism. This is a step in the reconstruction of Lincoln's early political environment.

That environment is looking more Whiggish every day. We know that Lincoln's father was a Whig and that his cousin was a Whig. We now know that the village in which he chose to make his independent way in the world was Whig. There is no anomaly in Lincoln's affiliation with the Whig party. The tendency to associate the frontier with democracy and democracy with the Democratic party is a hangover from the days when the West was thought to be the key to the American experience. Lincoln was a son of America's frontier, all right, but the West was politically and socially complex. When Lincoln moved to New Salem, he left his Whig home for a Whig town.



## *Rumor and Delay Characterized Capitol Construction*



*Ground was broken for Illinois' state house in 1868, but it was another twenty years before it was completed. The exterior remains much as it did in this 1898 photograph. (Photo courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)*

## **Constructing the Illinois State House**

By the close of the Civil War, Springfield residents were lobbying for a new Capitol building. Legislators approving the new State House in 1867 embraced the proposal for the increased space and prestige that would accompany the building's construction. Voters were less enthused. Rumors of graft, political corruption, and bad design dogged the Capitol's construction, and public confidence was so low that money to complete the building was not approved for another twenty years.

Following passage of the enabling legislation, Governor Richard Oglesby appointed, in 1867, a State House Commission to select a plan and oversee construction of the new Capitol. The Commission sponsored a design competition that drew thirty-one entries. Winning partners John C. Cochrane and Alfred H. Picquenard were awarded three thousand dollars and two and a half percent of construction costs, which were estimated at three million dollars. The plans for the Capitol had been drawn by Picquenard and a young assistant, George O. Garnsey, who left the firm shortly afterward. Cochrane was little involved with the Capitol after the contract was awarded, and he disassociated himself from the project

completely after 1871 when he returned to Chicago to rebuild following the Great Fire. That left French civil engineer and architect Alfred Picquenard in charge of

the construction. He had immigrated to the United States with the Icarians, a French utopian group that settled at Nauvoo in 1849 following the Mormon's departure.

*Harpers Weekly in 1867 published this view of the Capitol based on the architect's drawings. (Photo courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)*



*Those attending the Capitol's dedication ceremony in 1877 viewed an unfinished but occupied building. The banner over the entrance was inscribed "National Union. State Sovereignty." The steps at the Capitol Avenue entrance, shown here, were replaced in the 1880s with a first floor entrance. (Photo courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)*

Picquenard moved to Springfield to become supervising architect and oversaw a group of architects numbering variously from four to twelve. Picquenard executed the changes ordered by the State House Commission and altered the plans himself to make the building more costly and ornate. Under Picquenard's direction plaster walls were changed to marble and metal stairways sheathed in marble became solid marble.

Ground was broken for the new Capitol in May 1868. The site was the Mather Block, an area on Springfield's western edge that had been offered to the Lincoln family for the president's burial three years earlier. Railroad tracks were laid to the site along what is now Capitol Avenue. The first stone was set in June 1868 and the foundations, which extended to bedrock, were completed in September 1869.

Rumors that the materials and mixes used in the foundation were faulty caused commission officials to hire other architects to examine the superstructure. And an August 1869 report substantiated Picquenard's plans for the remainder of the building. Though the stability of the Capitol was



unquestionable, word spread that construction costs were soaring. Fears of cost overruns and corruption caused writers of the 1870 constitution to place a provision in it

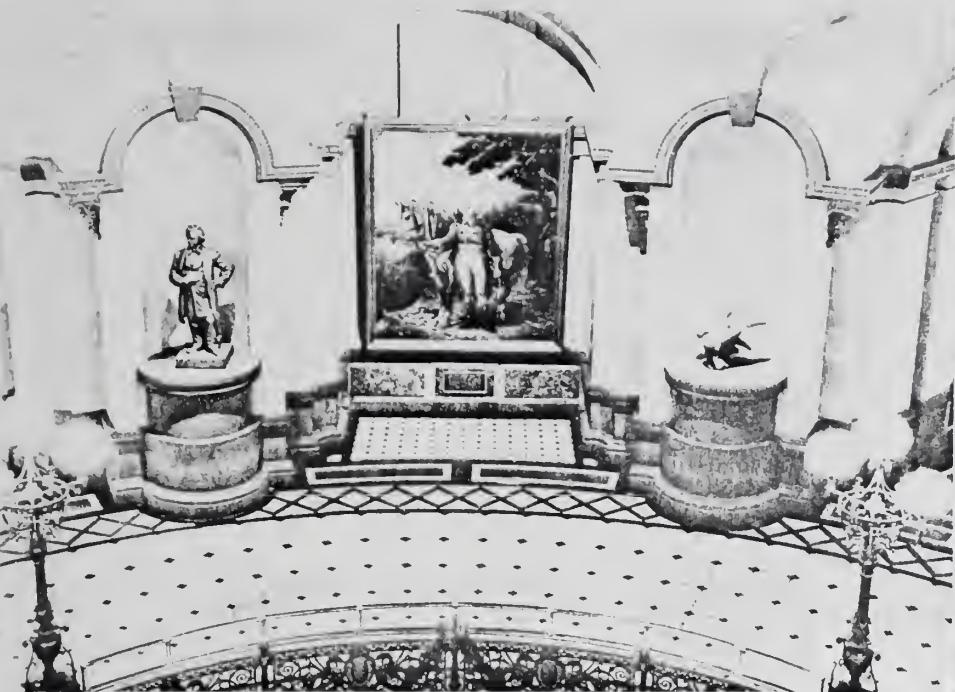
requiring expenditures exceeding three and a half million dollars be approved by a general referendum. The public was justifiably alarmed. By 1871 more than one third of the money had been spent and the exterior walls reached only to the second story.

No doubt some rumors were spread by representatives of rival cities. Both Peoria and Decatur offered the state money and construction sites if the legislature would agree to abandon the Springfield site for either city. The General Assembly did, however, accept an offer from the city of Chicago to hold its 1871 session there. The Fire of 1871 ruined the city officials' plans to lure state government to Chicago permanently.

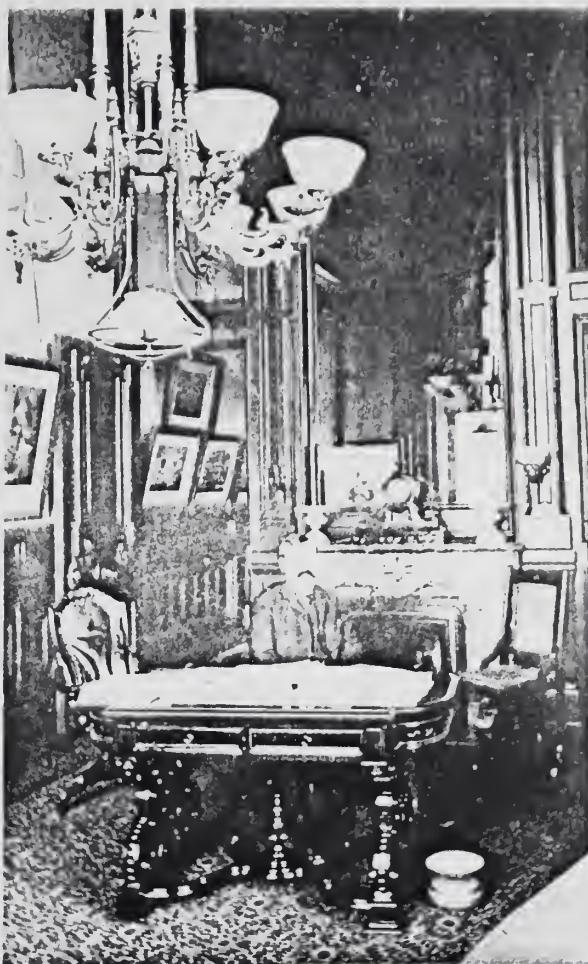
(continued on page 12)



*Workers used horse power to raise the first floor of the Capitol, pictured here about 1869. (Photo courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)*



*Left: The Capitol's second floor rotunda exhibits the variety of detail and decoration that characterizes the entire building. Right: Lieutenant Governor John C. Smith posed at his desk in the 1880s. The furnishings and design were intended to project state officeholders' dignity and authority. Below: The eight-foot-high frieze around the Capitol dome is made of cast iron.* (Photos courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)



## Constructing the Illinois State House

(continued from page 11)

Work progressed amid continued rumors. The legislature appropriated money for the Capitol in 1873 and 1875, meeting the constitutional limit. Some departments moved into the new Capitol in 1876. Construction came to halt November 30, 1876, shortly after Picquenard's death when costs reached 3.4 million dollars. Voters rejected referendums in 1878 and

1882 that would have authorized money for the Capitol's completion.

Voters passed the referendum, finally, in 1884, and work began to complete the dome and porticoes. The Capitol was completed four years later at a total cost of four and a half million dollars. Construction had taken twenty million bricks, nearly one and a half million pounds of wrought iron,

more than three million pounds of cast iron, and 750,000 cubic feet of cut stone.

As impressive as the structure is the variety and abundance of artwork. Murals, friezes, and statues adorn walls, highlight corridors, and surround the rotunda. A huge twenty by forty foot mural of George Rogers Clark making a treaty with the Indians overlooks the grand marble stairway. Eight feet above the third floor rotunda are eight statues of nineteenth-century Illinois public servants. A nine-section frieze depicting the advance of civilization encompasses the base of the upper dome. The eight-foot-high panels were made of cast iron to give the appearance of bronze. The center of the dome is highlighted by a circular span of stained glass resembling the state seal.

The Capitol was designed to project power, prestige, and authority. And it remains today the unquestionable seat of Illinois government.

Evelyn R. Moore

*This article is based in part on information in the National Register nomination form for the Capitol Building, which was prepared by Robert Bailey.*

**UNCOVERING  
1850'S  
CLOTHING**



## "Mr. Lincoln's World" Debuts at Springfield's Old State Capitol



Old State Capitol site interpreters portray historical characters in the site's new interpretive program. Featured here are Eric Brown as state auditor's clerk Lora Niles, and Ruth Taylor, portraying Amanda Ball, the wife of a black Springfield minister.

History came alive at Springfield's Old State Capitol on June 26, 1987, when a new interpretive program—"Mr. Lincoln's World"—made its debut. "Mr. Lincoln's World" offered visitors a unique blend of the traditional guided tour with actors dressed in period clothing portraying characters from 1850.

Tour groups that entered the Old State Capitol on Fridays or Saturdays during the summer of 1987 were transported back in time to the summer of 1851 and to Abraham Lincoln's Springfield. Characters encountered in the building included Lora Niles, an overworked state auditor's clerk, who explained his duties and the auditor's office functions while periodically lapsing into spirited declamations on behalf of his cause; a patron, Mrs. Anna Douglass, urging Niles for his messy office and bemoaning the fact that the legislature was in a man's world; Alice McLean, a widow, "poor and friendless"; "Patsy" (Connolly) and the personification of an Irish heritage shared by increasing numbers of Illinoisans in the 1850s. Her clash with Niles and sharp encounter with Amanda Ball, wife of a black Springfield minister/barber, dramatized for visitors some of the racial and social tensions that divided the state.

Mason Brayman, solicitor for the Illinois Central Railroad, explained to visitors the Supreme Court Chamber and adjoining law library as he enthused over railroad-building's profitable potential. Brayman's fashionable wife, Mary, received tour groups upstairs in the House of Representatives, where she was busy planning the annual Springfield Horticultural Exhibition. Appearing with Mary Brayman in Representatives Hall was Sarah Reynolds, wife of ex-governor John Reynolds, on vacation with her

husband from their Delcoville home. John's bitter verbal jabs at Galena journalist Mary Brown Davis, a feminist attired in bloomers, suggested to visitors some of the several ways in which nineteenth-century Illinoisans reacted to the "woman question."

All characters in "Mr. Lincoln's World" were based on careful research and represented individuals actually present in the Old State Capitol on business or pleasure in the 1850s. Historians from the Preservation Agency's Historic Sites Division provided background research from which character sketches were developed and scripts written. Training for actors and guides recruited from the Old State Capitol's permanent staff and volunteers program began in May, culminating in rehearsals beginning two weeks before the program opened.

Period clothing used in "Mr. Lincoln's World" was likewise authentic, right down to the corsets. Twenty outfits, complete with accessories, were produced for the program. Specialists from the Historic Sites Division researched biographies, newspapers, daguerreotypes, examples of clothing in museum collections, and secondary sources. Clothing production began in March 1987 with foundation garments and continued with the creation of complete outfit. Special curtain vendors were identified and specifications made for accessories. The 1928 Jewelry Company donated a large collection of period jewelry, and Clissy Dawson of Springfield made a donation of valuable antique lace. Mrs. Dawson, an expert tailor-dressmaker versed in historical reproductions, created patterns from historical photos and supervised a large staff of volunteer seamstresses.

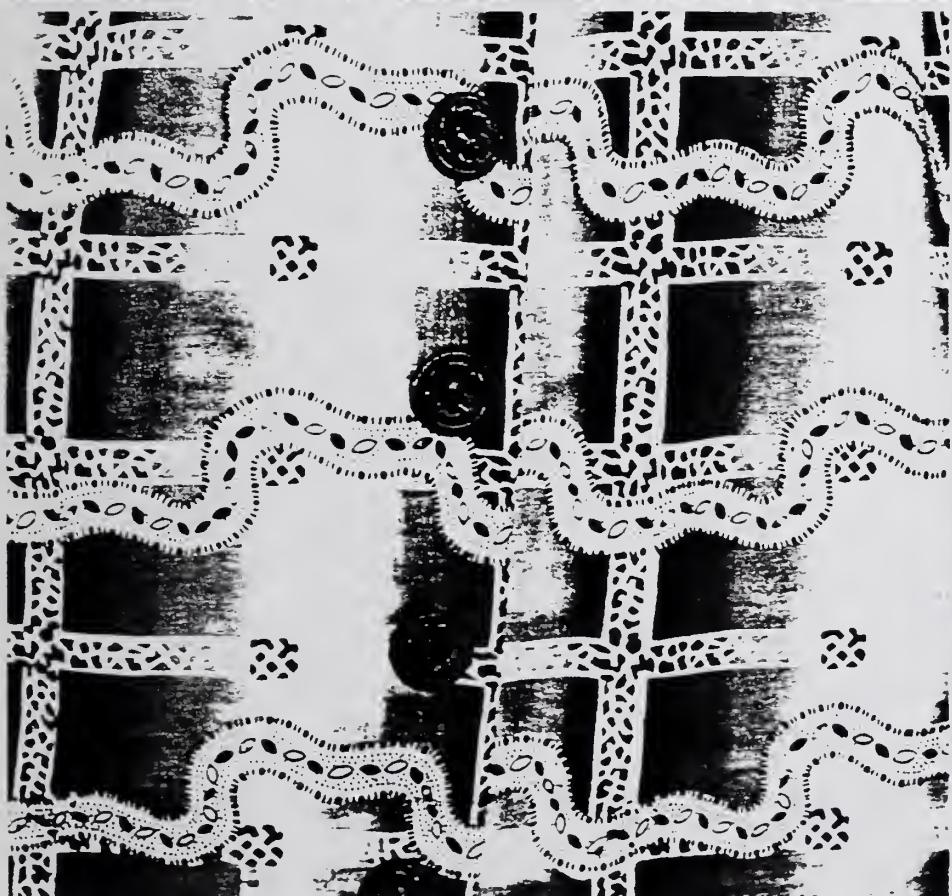


Site interpreters (from left) Virginia McElroy, Ron Edwards, and Christopher Ogleby portray ex-governor John Reynolds, his wife, and "bloomer girl" Mary Brown Davis in one of the program's vignettes.



*Top left:* Stout cotton cress  
printed with pink and red floral  
striped pattern c.1845

*Top right:* Stout cotton cress  
printed with red and brown  
striped pattern c.1845



1840-50  
The Queen's  
Dress. SS.055.1  
2nd floor, Queen's  
Clothes Cupboard



152

DIALECTICAL LITERATURE

AUG. 7. 1851

"A lady on arrival to this city, appeared in the Bloomer costume, on the square, on Wednesday afternoon. It was very pretty, appropriate, and she looked exceedingly well in it. We do not see how it is possible, that a lady, after wearing this light AND suitable dress, can go back into whale bone stays, and twenty pounds of skirt hanging to them, and dragging on the ground. But every one to their taste."

no title, TDJ, Aug. 8, 1851, p. 3 col. 1

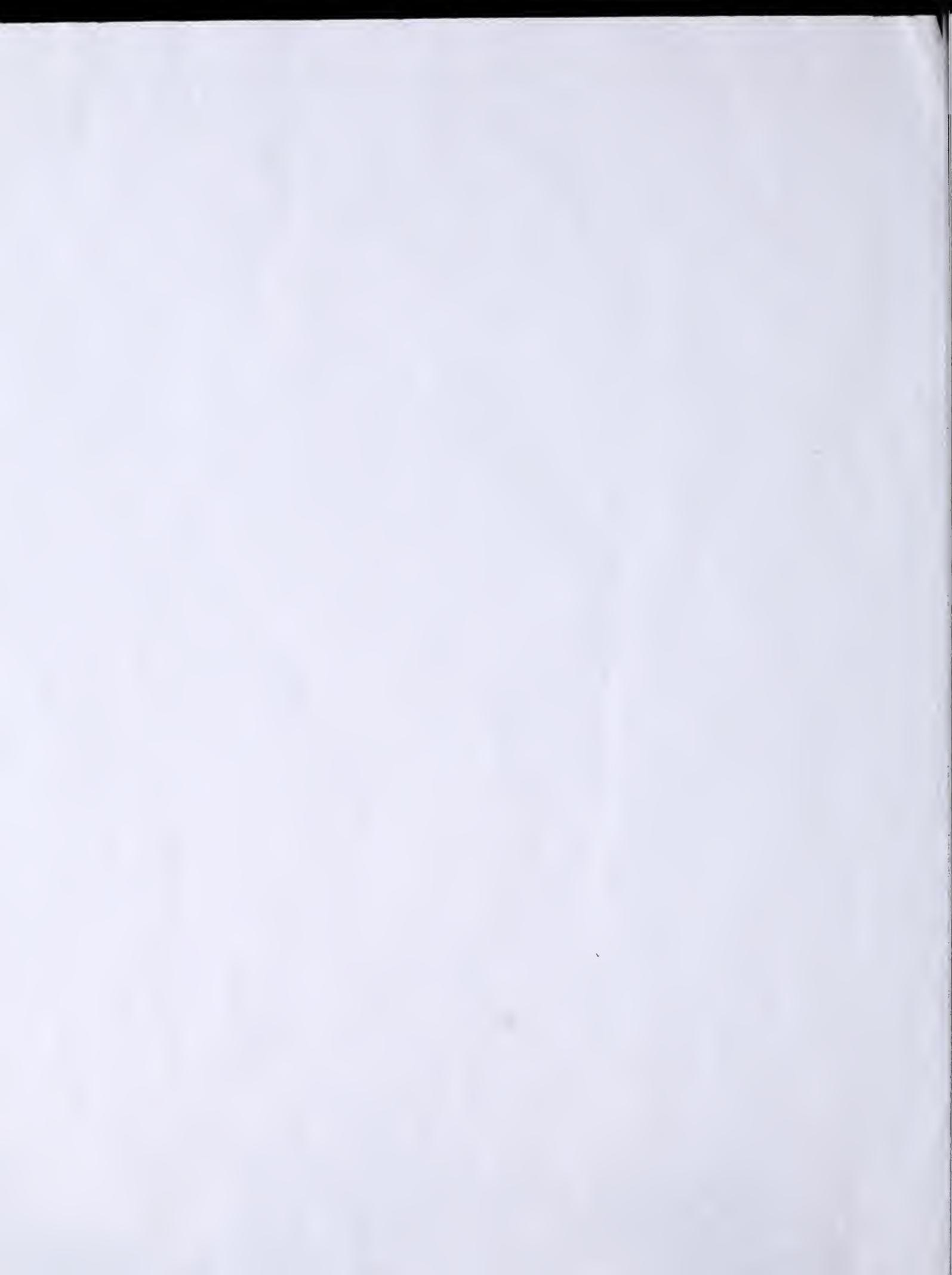
MAY 30, 1851

"We saw a few days since a young lady in this city dressed 'a la Turk.' It was a beautiful and appropriate dress in every respect and manifestly convenient. The wonder is, why the 'dragging' dress was ever adopted."

no title, TDJ, May 30, 1851, p. 3 col. 1

"We are delighted to learn that several of our merchants are going to bring on full sets of the Bloomer costume. No doubt fifty of our ladies will huv up at first sight all of the patterns brot here the coming fall. The neat hat to finish that dress will also be needed. We entertain no scepticism respecting the reception of the new style of ladies dress. Away with long night gowns!"

no title, TDJ, July 31, 1851, p. 3 col. 1





# Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 782-4836

February 18, 1987

Dear Friends:

Thank you for attending our informational meeting on January 24th regarding our new interpretive program.

We received a tremendous response from those of you who would like to hear more about portraying a character from "Mr. Lincoln's World."

Enclosed you will find biographical data and possible wardrobes for our eight chosen characters. Please read through this information and indicate on the enclosed sheet what character you might be interested in portraying. We also ask you to indicate a second and third choice, if you can.

When you return your interest sheet, we will review and call you for further discussion.

Also find enclosed a sheet that should be completed indicating sizes and other pertinent information. This information is needed for ordering fabrics and accessories for your character.

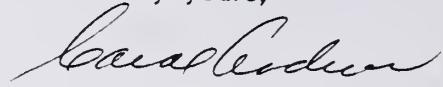
We briefly discussed a commitment of monthly hours from each volunteer at our meeting. We wish to offer the program as often as possible, therefore we request a minimum of eight hours per month from each volunteer. (These hours would be while the site is open to the public 9-5). Any receptions or special programs you wish to volunteer for would be additional hours. At this time we are planning Saturday programs so that volunteers who have weekday commitments can participate in our exciting program.

We are sure you understand why this request is necessary. Your character's clothing will be tailored for you, authentic in every detail. There will be considerable expense involved. Aside from the expense, your character will need your commitment of time so that when you put on the clothing, you'll feel comfortable with his or her life, as well. We'll provide you with clothing and as much information about your character's life as we can--only you can actually make your character live!

-2-

Your return of this information by February 26th will be most appreciated.  
A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Andrews



Jennie Battles

CA/JB/lw  
Enclosures

# INFORMATION SHEET

This information will be kept in a hermetically-sealed envelope--

Name:

Phone#:

Character: 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_

Height:

Weight:

Size of purchased clothing:

Men - Coat \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirt \_\_\_\_\_  
Trousers \_\_\_\_\_  
Hat \_\_\_\_\_  
Gloves \_\_\_\_\_  
Shoe (See attached)

Women - Dress \_\_\_\_\_  
Blouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Skirt \_\_\_\_\_  
Glove \_\_\_\_\_  
Shoe (See attached)

Do you wear eyeglasses? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

What was the approximate cost of last prescription glasses? \_\_\_\_\_

AN INTRODUCTION TO  
"MR. LINCOLN'S WORLD"

Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices  
Saturday, January 24, 1987

9:00 - 9:05	Introductions	Carol Andrews, Superintendent Old State Capitol/Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices
9:05 - 9:25	Overall Concept of Statewide Interpretive Program	Bob Coamer, Superintendent Historic Sites Division Historic Preservation Agency
9:25 - 9:45	Overview of Interpretive Program at Old State Capitol/Lincoln- Herndon Law Offices	Dick Taylor, Historian Historic Sites Division Historic Preservation Agency
9:45 - 10:10	Implementation of Program	Carol Andrews Jennie Battles, Wardrobe Curator Old State Capitol/Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices
10:10 - 11:00	Period Clothes of the 1870's	Keith Herron, Superintendent David Davis Mansion Becky Landau, Site Interpretive Special David Davis Mansion Marge Dickerson, Volunteer David Davis Mansion
11:00 - 11:20	Uncovering 1850's Clothing	James R. Allen Curator of Exhibits Historic Sites Division
11:20 - 11:50	Lunch	
11:50 - 12:40	Introduction to First Person Interpretation	Randy Jackson and Kathy Bundy Site Interpretive Specialists Lincoln Log Cabin Lance Steinmann, Jean Fisherkeller, Mark Johnson, Eric Brown Site Interpretive Specialists Old State Capitol/Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices Don Pfeiffer, Volunteer Old State Capitol/Lincoln-Herndon Dick Taylor
12:40 - 1:00	What Role Would You Like?	Carol Andrews Jennie Battles

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## SIGN UP SHEET

We're looking forward to your participation in this exciting new interpretive program. There will be many opportunities; truly something for everyone!

By answering the questions below, you'll indicate your areas of interest. Please let us know if you have interests or skills to share that aren't listed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be a costumed interpreter: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what character would you like to portray?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are your favorite colors to wear?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you wear eyeglasses? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wear contact lenses? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be a guide (non-costumed)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Additional areas that we need your help:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sewing: using "on-site" machine

\_\_\_\_\_ Hand-sewing: trimming garments, bonnets, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pattern-making: tracing, cutting, assembling

\_\_\_\_\_ Wardrobe: Cleaning, mending, assisting with dressing, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# October 1987

Ground was broken for the Illinois state house in 1868, but it was another twenty years before it was completed. Photo by William G. Farrar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>September</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>November</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Columbus Day Observed</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Halloween</i>						



Old State Capitol • Springfield • 62701



# Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Old State Capitol • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • (217) 782-4836

Period Clothing Policy of the Old State Capitol/Lincoln-Herndon Law Office State Historic Site, Historic Sites Division, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

July 1990

"Mr. Lincoln's World," the newest interpretive program at the Old State Capitol is a unique living history program that blends the traditional guided tours with actors, composed of site staff and volunteers attired in period clothing, portraying characters of the past. The program is given each Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, with the exception of the month of May.

The Historic Sites Division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Old State Capitol site administration are committed to this unparalleled and educational program. All characters in "Mr. Lincoln's World" are based on careful research and represented individual actually present in the State Capitol on business or pleasure in the 1850's. Extensive research was also done in regard to the clothing and accessories worn as well as nineteenth century customs and mannerisms.

A substantial budget allowed for the purchase of materials, construction of the wardrobe and the purchase of the accessories and accoutrements for the program. The continued promotion of the program and the maintenance of the wardrobe will be an ongoing commitment of the Sites Division and site administration with the cooperation of the Old State Capitol staff and volunteers.

The following document is the policy set forth by the Site Manager and Assistant Site Manager-Wardrobe Coordinator at the Old State Capitol for the living history program, "Mr. Lincoln's World." The guidelines were given careful study based upon historical authenticity of the wardrobe, practical maintenance and employee and volunteer consideration and constrictions. All employees and volunteers involved in the living history program are directed to read and comply with the following policy.

Carol Andrews  
Site Manager

The period clothes of "Mr. Lincoln's World" and the costumes of "Candlelight Evenings" are the property of the Old State Capitol State Historic Site administered by the Historic Sites Division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The wardrobe is to be used for site interpretive programs.

Following the guidelines in accordance with the State of Illinois use of state property - clothing and accessories are not available for loan or rental, nor can the wardrobe be used for private or commercial programs.

All requests for community outreach programs will be scheduled by site administration. The decision will be determined based on staff and/or volunteer availability as well as date and time of the requested program.

The following guidelines are to be adhered to by staff and volunteers participating in "Mr. Lincoln's World," to ensure that authenticity is maintained throughout the program.

HAIR: The hairstyles of the mid-1800's all require long hair, parted in the middle and pulled back quite severely into a bun, chignon, or coil arrangement. A variety of styles from the late 1840's through the 1850's are illustrated on the attached sheet. Photographic evidence for front dressing of the hair can be found in our album of historic photographs from the Illinois State Historical Library. This album is available through the Site Office. There is no evidence the hair was ever worn in bangs (fringes) or otherwise wispy around the face during this time period--by design, at any rate!

You will be responsible for fixing your hair in an appropriate style whenever you are in period dress. Period wigs and synthetic switches are available in the wardrobe room to aid you in creating the appearance of long hair. There are snoods in several colors. Hairpins and combs can be worn to make it easier to create your hairdo. Bobby pins and rubber bands should be hidden, as should colored ponytail holders. Hairspray, gel, etc., is also available to aid you in creating the proper "oiled" look. If you wish to wear your own false hair, the style must be approved before you wear it in interpretation.

MAKEUP: Conservative makeup may be worn as long as extremes of bright makeup (especially lipstick) and colored nailpolishes are avoided. Please use great care when putting on your period wardrobe so that stains from makeup won't become a problem.

EYEGLASSES: One of the most distracting things to the effective recreation of a period is the intrusion of eyeglasses in modern frames. Consequently, we must insist that, if you wear eyeglasses, you wear period eyeglasses. We will provide you with authentic old frames and lenses. You will need to supply us with your prescription.

JEWELRY: No wristwatches! You may wear your wedding and engagement rings only. If they are of a modern style, we ask that you turn them around to allow only the bands to show. Modern jewelry such as wide, shiny gold chains, gold add-a-bead necklaces, "floating heart" charms, wide bracelets, etc., is not acceptable. PLEASE--it would be a good idea to leave at home valuable modern jewelry on the days you're doing living history. Our album of period photos is quite useful for seeing various kinds of pins, chains, necklaces, and earrings worn by ladies and gents in the mid-1800's. Please remember--in our building in the 1850's, no proper lady would have her hands exposed in public. Each female must wear gloves when she is interpreting her role. Gentlemen visiting the building (the Governor, for example) should also wear gloves; those who work in the offices need not.

**SHOES/STOCKINGS:** Your shoes and stockings are provided by the Site. If you need or wish to wear your own shoes, please get the approval of the Wardrobe Coordinator. Period shoes, unless your own property, must be left at the Site.

Our research indicates that white opaque stockings were almost universally worn. Beige and black opaque would also be acceptable. For any other styles, please see the Wardrobe Coordinator.

**UNDERPINNINGS:** Your complete wardrobe of underpinnings must be worn anytime you are dressed in your period outfit and is to include chemise or chemisette, pantalettes(bloomers,drawers), corset, hoop skirt, and one or more petticoats. In the mid-1800's, this complete wardrobe of underpinnings was worn--in most cases, even under housedresses! One wonders how women were able to breathe, let alone work as hard as they did in the tightly laced silhouette of the age.

In our case, the dresses were constructed to be worn with the corset and the rest of the underpinnings in place; not wearing the corset puts undue strain on the seams of the bodice, to say nothing of the unattractive silhouette which results.

Since skirts were very full, a steel hooped skirt must be worn under your petticoats. In the mid-1800's, women wore as many as ten starched petticoats; once the steel cage crinoline was invented, it became universally accepted and women were known to wear them even in the fields and on wagon trains going west! Our petticoats should be heavily starched and ironed. This is one feature we find we can't deal with accurately, so we do concede to wash and wear blended cotton for our petticoats.

Each person is responsible for keeping laundered personal items of underpinnings(chemise and drawers, especially). There is a washer and dryer on site if the individual does not wish to take laundry home with them.

**PERIOD OUTFIT:** Your clothing is furnished at no cost to you.

LOANING your period clothing is not permitted; neither is wearing it for non-agency events. Removal off the site of any parts of your period wardrobe is not permitted unless it is at the direction of the Administrative Staff --school outreach programs, community events, etc.

Your period outfit may be worn out of the building to and from lunch. If a wrap is needed, one of our several period wraps must be worn. DO NOT put a modern coat over period dress! Please do not carry a modern handbag, either. If you can't manage to leave the building without your handbag, we have baskets you may borrow to carry it in.

Anytime you are off the Site during the work day, you are a representative of the Site and of the IHPA. If you are dressed in period clothing, you have a further responsibility to properly represent the historic figure you interpret.

**WARDROBE MAINTENANCE:** The maintenance of your period wardrobe is a shared responsibility: if a button pops off, a hook/eye comes loose, etc., PLEASE sew it back on! If you require any major alterations or repair, you need to report this to the Wardrobe Coordinator so that the seamstress can be informed. Drycleaning is the responsibility of the Site; however, you must bring your outfit up to the staff lounge and inform the Wardrobe Coordinator of the need for drycleaning. For the sake of the clothing, drycleaning will not be done more frequently than once every TWO months. If an exception needs to be made, see the Wardrobe Coordinator. Drycleaning your period clothing of your own volition is not permitted.

Dress shields, if not already in place, are available. After each wearing, clothing is to be hung correctly so that it can be aired out before being crowded into place. "FRESH AGAIN," a costume spray product, should be applied to your coats, vests, bodices, according to directions after each wearing. This is your own responsibility, and must be done before leaving the Wardrobe Room.

A professional model fabric steamer is in the Ladies' Wardrobe Room. If your outfit needs steaming to freshen it, please inform the Wardrobe Coordinator. Steaming is a very effective way to bring a wilted garment back to life!

In the period we are interpreting, the length of the skirts made them real dust and dirt catchers. You will experience the same difficulty, so please understand that a soiled hemline does not constitute a dirty dress in need of cleaning!

Your authentic period clothing is absolutely vital in creating your period impression. Our "Mr. Lincoln's World" script contains many references to clothing, and to the separate spheres of manhood/womanhood. If a visitor inquires about your clothing during a tour, you should certainly answer to the best of your ability as long as you stay in character. However, a proper lady would NEVER lift her skirts and show her ankles, let alone her pantalettes! If you can catch the visitor after the tour or before he leaves the building, it certainly would be good to interpret your clothing further, "one-to-one" and in third person.

The staff of the Illinois State Historical Society  
wishes to thank you for your participation in the  
Region III Costume Society of America Meeting:

Ruth Truett, Assistant Executive Director  
Jeff Allen, Congress Coordinator  
Karen Fyfe, Program/Office Manager  
Joanne Stutzman, Program/Office Assistant  
Charlene Henney, Bookkeeper



*Ernestine Gerula*

[Left to Right: Jean Fisherkeller, Sunderine Temple,  
Ruth Taylor, Dennis Mastroddi, Charlotte Oglesby,  
Ron Edwards, Virginia Matherly, Isabel Howard,  
Eugenia Lynch and Ernestine Gerula.]



**"Mr. Lincoln's World,"  
Living History Program  
at the Old State Capitol: Mid-1800's**

**HISTORIC FIGURES**

**Lotus Niles** - Chief clerk for Auditor Campbell  
**Jane McNamara** - Wife of the State House Building Superintendent  
**Amanda Ball** - Wife of Elder Samuel Ball, a colored Baptist minister  
**Mason Brayman** - Attorney; Chief Solicitor for the Illinois Central Railroad  
**Governor John Reynolds** - ex-Governor of Illinois, John was Governor during the Black Hawk War (Term: 1830-1834)  
**Mary Brown Davis** - Female Journalist from Galesburg  
**Sarah Reynolds** - Second wife of John Reynolds  
**Mary Brayman** - Wife of Mason Brayman  
**Mason and Mary Brayman** - in formal attire  
**Also participating in this evening's program:**

**STAFF/VOLUNTEER\*  
INTERPRETERS**

**Dennis Mastroddi**  
**Jean Fisherkeller**  
**Susan Donnelly\***  
**Ruth Taylor**  
**Tom Mason\***  
**Brian Toberman\***  
**Charlotte Oglesby**  
**Virginia Matherly**  
**Sandy Temple**  
**Harry\* & Connie Bostick\***  
**Luann Hickman**, Staff  
**Ernestine Gerula**, Staff  
**Richard Roth**, Staff  
**Cis Dawson**, Designer/  
Seamstress  
**Carol Andrews**, Site Manager  
**Jennie Battles**, Assistant Site Manager  
**Karen Anderson**, Volunteer Coordinator

*Silhouette artist Ernestine Gerula gave generously of her time and talent.  
Many thanks, Ernestine!*

*Our sincere thanks also go to these kind individuals who contributed in some way to the "Mr. Lincoln's World" Exhibit and/or the evening's program:*

The McLean County Historical Society  
Martin Wycoff  
Marsha Young, David Davis Mansion State Historic Site  
The Illinois State Museum  
Linda Norbert  
Jan Wass

[October 6, 1990]

**PROGRAM**

FORMAL PRESENTATION in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**"Mr. Lincoln's World, Living History Program at the Old State Capitol"**

By

Carol Andrews, Site Manager &  
Jennie Battles, Assistant Site Manager

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF 5TH FLOOR**

**DINNER**

**Menu**

Minestrone Roma  
Caesar Salad  
Breast of Chicken Parisienne -  
on Bed of Steamed White Rice with Sauce Pernod  
Hot Bread Sticks  
Double Chocolate Cream Pie

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF 4TH FLOOR**

**ADJOURNMENT**

\*\*\* Parking garage closes at 9:15 \*\*\*

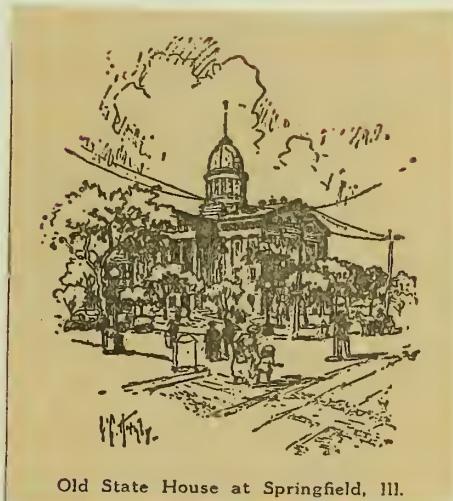
[Admission ticket, Oct. 6, 1990]

Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums





Abraham Lincoln



Old State House at Springfield, Ill.

4g St - Springf. State House  
Old

## THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

The Old State Capitol is open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. The museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Appointments for group viewings may be made by phoning Springfield (217) 525-4836, or by writing the Tour Director at the Old State Capitol.

You may also wish to visit the other historic sites operated by The Illinois State Historical Library and Society:



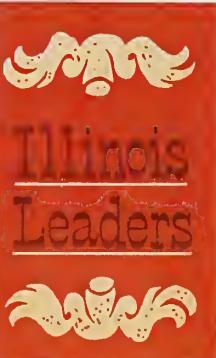
Clover Lawn  
Bloomington



The Carl Sandburg Birthplace  
Galesburg

## THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

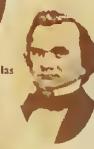
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Abraham Lincoln



Stephen A. Douglas



Ulysses S. Grant

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1809-1865

Abraham Lincoln's career was indissolubly linked with the Old State Capitol after 1837, when he led the Sangamon County legislators in their successful fight to move the capital to Springfield. Lincoln moved from New Salem to Springfield soon thereafter and served as a member of the Twelfth General Assembly, the first legislature to sit in the Old State Capitol.

Although Lincoln held no public office in the Old State Capitol after 1841, he was a frequent visitor to the building. His law office was never located more than half a block from the

Capitol, and he used the Law Library extensively in preparing his cases. He also borrowed books from the State Library and argued more than two hundred cases before the State Supreme Court.

Lincoln was a popular political speaker, and addressed numerous groups in the statehouse. His most noted address was his 1858 "House Divided" speech. Following his nomination as Republican presidential candidate in 1860, Lincoln used the governor's quarters in the building to receive visitors and friends. Five years later, Lincoln's body lay in state in the Hall of Representatives before

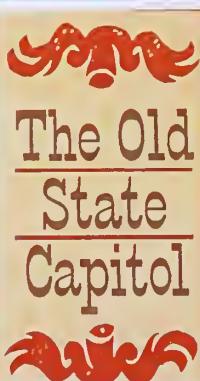
his burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

### STEPHEN A. DOUGLASS 1813-1861

Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's longtime political rival, was the first secretary of state to serve in the Old State Capitol. Douglas's tenure in that office was brief, since he was elected a justice of the State Supreme Court in February, 1841. He served in that post for two years, when he resigned to run for Congress. A popular speaker, Douglas is especially remembered for his debates with Lincoln during their 1858 campaign for the United States Senate and for his inspirational address to the Illinois legislature in 1861, urging support for Lincoln and the Union.

### ULYSSES S. GRANT 1822-1885

Ulysses S. Grant began his brief career in the Old State Capitol after bringing a company of Civil War volunteers from Galena to Springfield. Grant was named a military aide to Governor Richard Yates in April, 1861, and served in the office of the Illinois Adjutant General until June 15, when he was commissioned colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry.



### THE OLD STATE CAPITOL HISTORY AND RECONSTRUCTION

The Old State Capitol, Illinois' fifth statehouse, was the first one located in Springfield. In 1837, the Sangamon County legislators, led by Abraham Lincoln, sponsored the bill which changed the seat of government from Vandalia to Springfield.

The Greek Revival structure was designed by John F. Rague of Springfield. Construction began on the foundation of locally quarried limestone in June, 1837. The stone proved so attractive it was used for the entire building, rather than the brick originally specified.

Governor Thomas Carlin ordered the state offices moved to Springfield in July, 1839, and the legislature was able to move into the new capitol in December, 1840. The building, which cost approximately \$260,000, was officially completed in 1853.

After the Civil War, the capitol was too small to house the legislature as well as the state administrative offices and supreme court. A new statehouse was authorized in 1867, and was ready for occupancy in 1876.

The Old State Capitol was sold to Sangamon County and was used as the county courthouse until 1965. In 1899, the county needed more space, so the building was jacked up, adding a new first floor and rebuilding the interior.

Over the years, a number of solutions were posed for preserving the building, and in 1961 it was repurchased by the state. Because of the major alterations made by the county, and because modern utilities had to be incorporated into the structure, reconstruction was deemed the most feasible method of making the building look as it did during Lincoln's era. This solution also allowed for the construction of a new underground State Historical Library and parking garage on the site.

All the exterior stones were saved and reassembled over a new skeleton of concrete and steel. The Old State Capitol was rededicated on December 3, 1968, and after being furnished with antiques purchased by the Abraham Lincoln Association, was opened to the public on November 15, 1969.

# THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

- ① THE SENATE CHAMBER. The upper house of the Illinois legislature met in this room. Each of the oval desks is a reproduction of an original. The imposing portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette, like the representation of George Washington in the Hall of Representatives was copied for this building in 1839 from a painting in the United States Capitol.
- ② THE SUPREME COURT. In this spartan chamber the supreme court sat to hear the cases appealed from the county circuit courts throughout Illinois. Stephen Douglas was one of the justices in 1841-1845, and Abraham Lincoln argued more than two hundred cases before the Supreme Court in this room.
- ③ THE ROTUNDA. The second floor rotunda was always busy. There dances, levees, and other social gatherings took place. Today Lincoln looks down from a campaign banner at Leonard Volk's life-size statue of his longtime political rival, Stephen A. Douglas; views of the Springfield square, painted in 1857, hang on the east and west walls.
- ④ THE HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES. Abraham Lincoln spent his final term as a state legislator in this chamber in the session of 1840-1841, the first to meet in the Old State Capitol. The Hall was also used by a variety of lecturers and political speakers. One of Lincoln's best-remembered addresses, the "House Divided" speech, was delivered here following his 1858 nomination for the United States Senate.
- ⑤ THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. The furnishings of this room, like those in other administrative offices, are of many styles since state officers were expected to furnish their own offices. The wooden cabinet with small metal drawers served as the filing system of the day. Stephen A. Douglas was the first secretary of state to serve in this building.
- ⑥ THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM. This room closely reappears the appearance it had in November, 1860, while Abraham Lincoln used it to receive visitors and well-wishers following his election to the Presidency. The dress on the mannequin was worn by Mary Lincoln, and the wooden chair, with one link for each state and territory duplicates one presented to Lincoln.

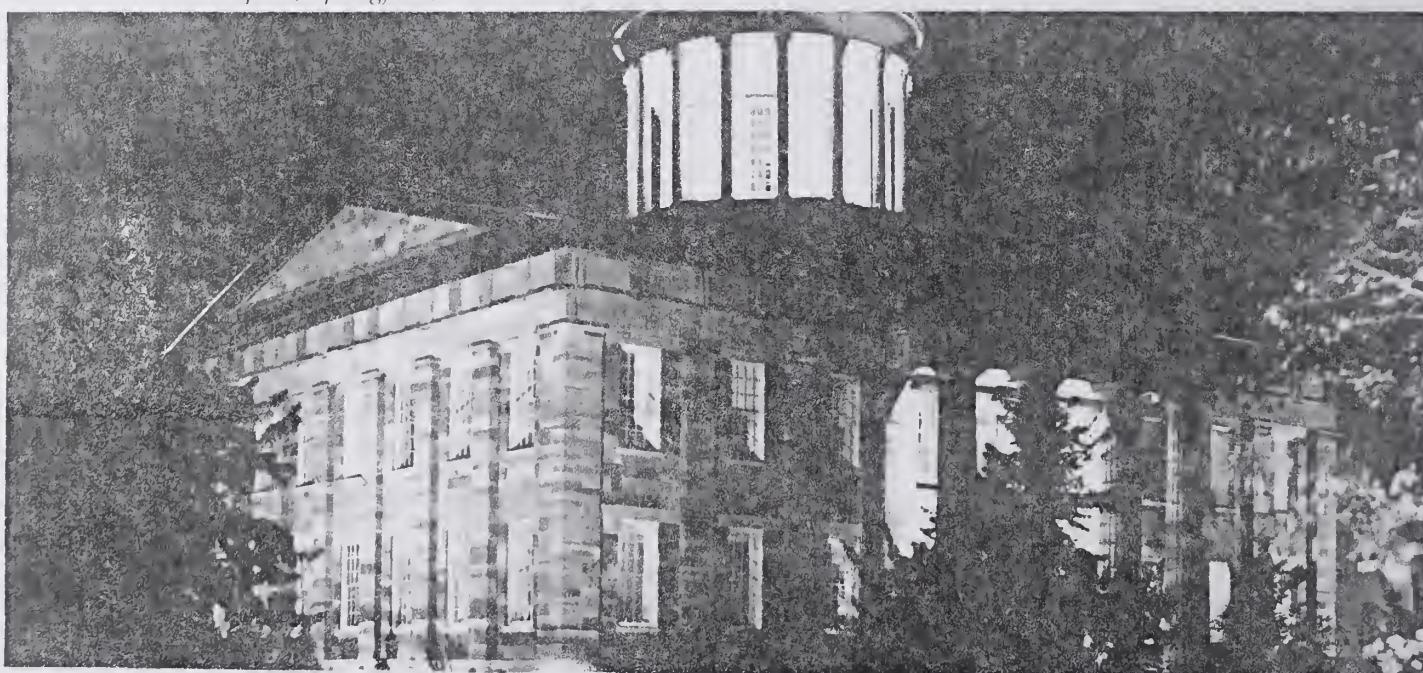


# *the Old State Capitol*

The Old State Capitol, on the square in downtown Springfield, Illinois, is situated between Fifth and Sixth streets and between Washington and Adams streets. An excellent—some have called it a perfect—example of the American Greek Revival style of architecture, the building was constructed from dolomite. The warm brown-colored stone lay in a thin vein about eight miles from the center of town. Original plans called for using dolomite for the foundation and brick for the upper part of the structure but local enthusiasm for the native stone won out. The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1837, and the first rooms were in use in 1839. The capitol quickly became the center not only of political life but also of social and cultural affairs. Concerts, balls, levees, and civic meetings were held here. It was at such a meeting that Lincoln made his "House Divided" speech June 18, 1858. In February, 1837, Springfield pledged \$50,000 to construct the building on condition the site of the Capitol be moved from Vandalia to Springfield. Lincoln and eight colleagues succeeded in persuading other legislators to make the change. On June 22, 1837, local stonemason Jared Irwin wrote in his daybook that "I this day commenced laying the foundation of the State House at \$2.50 per day."

The Senate chamber today has been restored and furnished to the way it appeared to legislators and visitors in the mid-19th century. Slant top writing desks of the prevailing Sheraton style hold candlesticks and camphene lamps, pewter inkwells and clay pipes. Newspapers and other periodicals of the period are displayed. The portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette was painted by Illinois artist James W. Berry in 1839.

*Restored Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois.*





# *Along the Heritage Trail~*

In a sense, each of the places where Abraham Lincoln lived was a part of the American frontier—from the one-room log houses his father built in Kentucky, Indiana and southeastern Illinois, to a room in a tavern in New Salem, to the new state capitol of Springfield, and eventually to what was still considered the "new federal city" of Washington.

He was the quintessential new American, the self-made man, the auto-didact whose quick native intelligence and ambition for a better life allowed him to move ahead—in just sixteen years—from his father's log house in the Indiana wilderness to a handsome frame house in Springfield, the town he helped make into the state capitol. His changing lifestyle is reflected in the changing architecture seen as we travel the Lincoln Heritage Trail.

Along the way are the rough New Salem structures, the brick or frame buildings that were the courthouses of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and the stagecoach stops. Each in its own way tells the story of quickly evolving frontier settlement, of civilization obdurately moving westward; of homes first furnished with the few cherished possessions carried west by new settlers who then made many of the other household furnishings they needed. It is the story, too, of the "second" homes furnished finally and finely with new pieces brought via the Great Lakes from Boston and New York, via inland waterways from Pennsylvania or "up river" from New Orleans.

# *the Heritage Trail Antiques Show*

*America's Newest Complete Show  
of Authentic Early Antiques*

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

## *September 24, 25, 26*

Governor and Mrs. James R. Thompson,  
honorary co-chairmen

*Convention Center  
Springfield*

*in cooperation with the  
Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation, Inc.*

Admission, 4.00      Tearoom 12 noon to 9:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday; noon to 6:00 p.m., Sunday  
Convention Center, Eighth & Adams Streets, Springfield, Illinois      Telephone 217-789-6565

# NEIGHBORS

## MR. LINCOLN'S NEIGHBORHOOD

History from the eyes of the common folk return Old Capitol visitors to Abe's world

By ELIZABETH BETTENDORF  
STAFF WRITER

Gov. John Reynolds raps his walking stick on the plank floors of the Old State Capitol, guffawing at the mere mention of Abraham Lincoln. Yes, he knows Lincoln, a prominent attorney and Whig party buck, but, in Reynolds' opinion, he seems to be just your average guy in a stovepipe hat — certainly not presidential material.

The year is 1851

"Don't think much of him or the Whigs," he scoffs. "There are far too many Whigs around for me."

Reynolds, a craggy Democrat in a somber wool tail coat and matching heaven-kissing top hat, is a self-described "old-style" governor with vivid recollections of the Blackhawk War. Yes, you heard right — the Blackhawk War. Reynolds, born in 1788, has, ah, perspective.

In fact, when it comes to historical insight, Reynolds and the rest of the 19th-century motley crew loitering around the Old State Capitol every weekend can expound on everything from Stephen Douglas to patronage to the cost of a pair of all-purpose Brogan men's shoes (about 75 cents).

The distinctly Dickensian group — frocked in bonnets, bloomers, tightly-fasted corsets and other period garb — belong to "Mr. Lincoln's World," an 1850s interpretive program intended to familiarize visitors with the local yokels who roamed the Capitol's corridors in Lincoln's day.

The program, begun in 1987, is overseen by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The 20 actors — both volunteers and paid staff — don their costumes and 1850s personas every Friday and Saturday to lend the Old State Capitol an extra dose of historic realism.

The domed, Greek-Revival style capitol building, which served as the Illinois statehouse from 1839 to 1876, has been operated as a tourist attraction since the 1960s when it was dismantled and restored to its original stately splendor.

"We try to portray history from the eyes of the common folk," says Jennie Battles, assistant site manager for the Old State Capitol and the nearby Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices. "We're not portraying Lincoln or Douglas — just a cross-section of social classes."

Indeed, the resurrected cast of characters — a neighborly bunch who really did live in Illinois in 1851 — span the period's distinct social stratum. From Jane McNamara, wife of the building's custodian, to social doyenne Mary Brayman, whose husband served as solicitor for the Illinois Central Railroad — the characters have been meticulously researched, down to the cut of their dress to the nature of their chit-chat at social functions.

"Dress — particularly among women," remarks Battles, "has always spoken so eloquently about a person's place in society."

Mary Brown Davis — a journalist, feminist and social reformer who covered the statehouse in the 1850s for the The Galesburg Free Democrat preferred to don a dress "a la Turk" — a simple bloomer-style frock that camouflaged sultan-like pantaloons.

"I travel a lot and they're fashionable in the East — not in Springfield," explains Davis (really Charlotte Oglesby, a Historic Preservation employee). "All that hopping in and out of buggies — I don't like to drag my dress in the mud."

Her no-nonsense fashion statement made sense in 1851 Springfield, when the otherwise civilized, hoop-skirted townfolk were forced to share the mud-filled streets with roaming pigs and other livestock.

In fact, the early appearance of the practical bloomers prompted one reporter for the Illinois Daily Journal to gush: "A lady on arrival to this city, appeared in the Bloomer costume, on the square, on Wednesday afternoon. It was very pretty, appropriate, and she looked exceedingly well in it. We do not see how it is possible that a lady, after wearing this light AND suitable dress can go back to the whale-bone stays, and 20 pounds of skirt hanging to them and dragging on the ground. But everyone to their taste."

Battles strives for accuracy when garbing her actors — right down to minimal makeup (dark lipstick is a no-no) and the severe, center-parted bun preferred by most women of the era. Actors with short perms or severe haircuts don mousy bunned wigs for their parts.

"In those days, women didn't wash their hair every day, so they oiled it to make it look even slicker," says Battles. "There are some wonderful ads from that period for hair 'oils' that wouldn't go rancid."

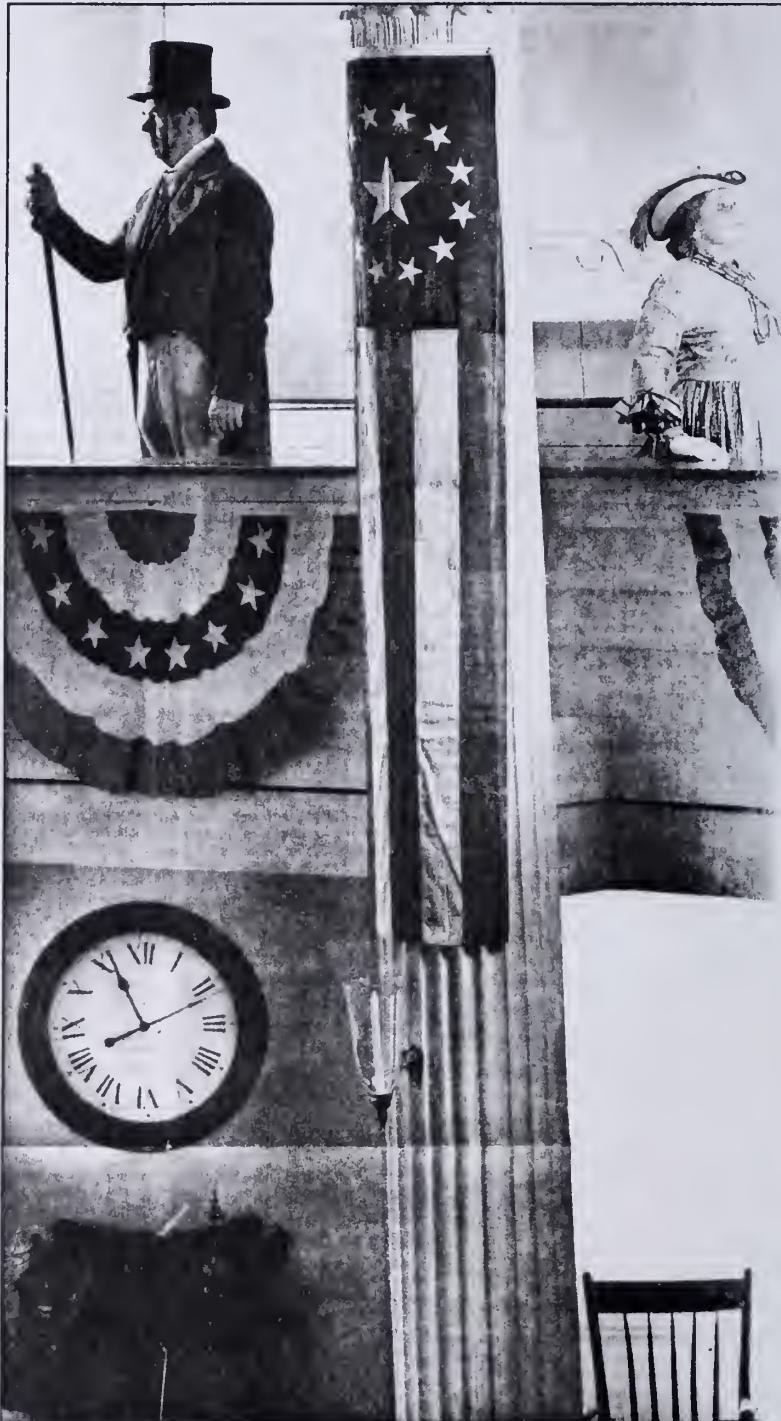
The ankle-high, square-toed booties favored by some of the women are imported from a footwear-reproduction company in England. Their bonnets — some elaborately detailed with satin flowers and lace — are also custom made. The historically correct jewelry (pierced ears looped with French wires were hot) was all donated by the 1928 Jewelry Company.

Attiring an actor from head-to-toe in period frocks costs approximately \$600. Each character has been thoroughly researched by a historian and comes complete with a biography — party affiliation, social class, employment and date of birth.

"Some of our actors are so into their characters, they even know where their graves are," says Battles. "We are so proud of them."

None of the volunteers and staff who portray the sundry collection of politicians, ministers, journalists and socialites have had any formal dramatic training — save for one workshop conducted by a University of Illinois drama professor.

Mary Brayman (played by Sandy Temple, See LINCOLN on page 22



Ron Edwards, portra  
Oglesby, upper right  
John Reynolds, Charlotte  
Mary Brown Davis, and Sandy  
re part of a group of people in

"Mr. Lincoln's World," an 1850s int  
ended to familiarize Old State Ca  
who roamed the corridors in Linco

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GOVERNMENT

1948-75



JOHN W. LEWIS  
SECRETARY OF STATE





Illinois' Old State Capitol

## ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOLS

On December 3, 1818, when Illinois was admitted to the Federal Union, Kaskaskia became its first Capital. Since that historic day, Illinois has had three governmental seats (Kaskaskia, Vandalia and Springfield) and six Capitols.

The first State House was rented. It was a two story brick building in Kaskaskia. Two years later the Capitol was removed to Vandalia. After Vandalia became the capital in 1820,

Kaskaskia deteriorated, gradually disappearing under the waters of the Mississippi River which lapped its shores. A plain two story frame structure was erected in Vandalia and the first session of the Second General Assembly met in this first State-owned Capitol on December 4, 1820 and during the session passed an act making Vandalia the seat of government for the next twenty years.

On December 9, 1823, fire destroyed the Capitol and during the summer of 1824 a new building was constructed of brick at a cost of \$15,000. Soon thereafter agitation was started for the removal of the Capitol to a site nearer the geographical center of the State. This sentiment caused the General Assembly to pass an act in 1833 whereby the voters at the following general election could decide the location for a new capitol city. A vote was taken but the margin was so small as to be inconclusive, and the vote was not announced officially, so the suggested removal from Vandalia was dropped until the 1836-37 session revived the question.



First State House of Illinois at Kaskaskia.  
The building was rented and served as a  
Capitol from 1818 until 1820.

removal from Vandalia was dropped until the 1836-37 session revived the question.

## LINCOLN SUGGESTS SPRINGFIELD

Matters then took a very different turn for the proposal was interesting a rising young lawyer known as Abraham Lincoln who represented Sangamon County. Lincoln introduced a bill providing for removal of the Capital of Illinois to Springfield, and he was backed by eight fellow members who with him were known as the "Long Nine" because their aggregate height was 54 feet.

Residents of Vandalia were determined that they should retain the Capital so in the summer of 1836, without authorization, and while the legislature was recessed, they tore down the old Capitol. In its stead they erected a State House costing \$16,000. This gesture, however, was in vain for with the return of the General Assembly, Lincoln was successful in having Springfield named as Illinois' new Capital.

On February 25, 1837, the Assembly passed a bill providing that the Capital be moved from Vandalia to some place nearer the center of the State and three days later Springfield was chosen as the new Capital City. Because the Act of Assembly in 1820, Vandalia was to continue as the Capital until December 1, 1840, but on June 20, 1839, Governor Thomas Carlin issued a proclamation that all State records be moved to Springfield by July 4, 1839. State Government did not actually function in Springfield until December, 1839.

The eleventh General Assembly returned the Vandalia Capitol to the county of Fayette and the city of Vandalia, and the old State house still stands, though now again is State property.

The Cornerstone of the State's fifth Capitol was laid in Springfield on July 4, 1837. After many delays the building finally was completed in 1853 at a total cost of \$260,000, double its original estimate.

The enabling act was passed by the 26th General Assembly on February 24, 1867 and ground was broken for the present capitol, March 11, 1868. The building was first occupied in 1876 though unfinished. The building was completed twenty-one years after the Legislature first authorized its construction. Originally construction costs were limited to \$3,000,000, but before completion expenditures amounted to more than \$4,500,000.



State House at Vandalia. This was the third building there to be used as a Capitol.

The building (below) was the State's fifth Capitol. It later was remodeled and became Sangamon County Court House. It was razed and reconstructed as it originally appeared and is now a Lincoln Shrine.





Governor's Office

## THE RESTORED OLD

Office of the Secretary of State





Senate Chamber

## STATE CAPITOL

House of Representatives Chamber



*By Wayne C. Temple*

## THE HOUSE THAT LINCOLN BUILT

Thoughtfully, President-Elect Abraham Lincoln ambled along to the north and west, away from his modest, brown-colored, frame residence on Eighth and Jackson streets in Springfield, Illinois. His course lay towards the State House on the Public Square. For the past several months, Governor John Wood had kindly allowed him to utilize one room of the Governor's facilities in the Capitol. It was much more appropriate and dignified than the quaint, dusty, and much-abused Lincoln & Herndon law office immediately across the street to the west. Besides, the Illinois State Legislature was not then in session, and the interim Governor had little necessity to use all of his allotted space on the southeast corner of the second floor. Here, under the gaze and scrutiny of prying newspaper reporters, congregated both the curious as well as the political office seekers who converged in this chamber to consult with Lincoln. Even artists put in their appearance to paint and sketch the former Railsplitter as he joked and conversed with noisy myriads of crowding and shoving humanity.

There was a sharp chill in the late-fall air as Lincoln approached the Square on this December day in 1860. Whisps of gray smoke billowed upward from the stubby chimneys of this Greek-Revival structure, and he could smell the pungent-but-aromatic odor of burning hickory wood. The Secretary of State, Ozias M. Hatch, as custodian of public buildings, had just purchased 75 cords of this prime fuel. Its fragrant essence probably reminded Lincoln of lean Kentucky-cured bacon frying in an iron skillet.

While his long stilt-like legs carried him swiftly up the cold steps and through the massive doors on the south side of the classical stone edifice, Lincoln may have pondered his intimate connection with this historic building. As a member of the famed "Long Nine" in the Illinois Legislature, he had led the fight to remove the seat of government from Vandalia to Springfield. When their proposal proved successful, Lincoln himself changed his residence there from New Salem on April 15, 1837.

John F. Rague, a baker and fellow townsman with architectural training, won the competition for best capitol design and drew a \$200 prize from the State House Commission, presided over by Dr. Anson G. Henry (a Whig, a physician, an editor of the *Sangamo Journal*, and a close friend of Lincoln's).

Leroy L. Hill, from south of town, submitted the lowest bid for the stone: \$4.00 per perch (1 rod x 1 foot x 1-1/2 feet). Highest bid turned out to be \$7.75, and the nearest one to Hill's, \$4.40. As early as 1831, Hill—a native of Virginia—started buying land here. His stone quarry lay on Sugar Creek, approximately seven miles from the building site, in Section 2 of Ball Township, Sangamon County. It contained limited veins of an attractive brown-tinted limestone (dolomite) having a mixture of flint within.

Foundation work rapidly advanced to the point whereby the cornerstone could be laid with patriotic ceremonies on July 4, 1837. Chairman for the Committee of Arrangements was John F. Rague. This versatile gentleman received his post of leadership not as the architect but rather as the President of the Mechanics Institute in Springfield, the agency placed in charge of the program.

On the appointed day, Springfield's Military Companies turned out in force—infantry, artillery, and horse. At sunrise the local "Sharp-Shooters" performed a "feu de joie," discharging thirteen rounds of blank cartridges. (No doubt this number was selected to honor the original thirteen states.) Then the militiamen paraded for the remainder of the morning. Col. Edward Dickinson Baker, a First Lieutenant of the Black Hawk War and a personal companion of Lincoln's, drilled the newly-formed horse troop of Thomas M. Neale. (Lincoln had worked for the latter as deputy county surveyor).

Such strenuous exercise produced voracious appetites. So, at the noon hour, participants and observers alike adjourned to "the Grove" for a dinner catered by W. W. Watson. After much feasting, all members of the Mechanics Institute assembled at the First Presbyterian Church, banners flying, and marched proudly to the Methodist Church where Edmund R. Wiley expounded at some length. Following this service, the procession struck off for the Public Square.

As soon as the cornerstone had been swung carefully into place, Col. Baker stepped gracefully on top and delivered a masterful address, full of the spread-eagle oratory for which he was famous. He outlined the background of the place where the audience then stood, related briefly the history of both the State and the Nation, and predicted a brilliant destiny for Illinois. At his closing, the assembled soldiers fired a salute.

There is little doubt but what A. Lincoln also watched attentively from out that huge mass of celebrators. The fledgling lawyer was in town, for he pleaded cases that morning during an

abbreviated session of the Circuit Court. It is not likely that he missed hearing Baker. (Later, Abraham and Mary would name one of their sons Edward Baker Lincoln.)

Although the architect's plans called for brick walls, numerous local citizens expressed ardent pleas to finish the structure with the brownish limestone quarried for its foundation. And so Dr. Henry and Archibald Job, as building commissioners, executed another contract with Hill on December 21, 1837. By this agreement the State secured the privilege of taking out—for \$1 per load—all the additional rock needed to complete the project. However, the commissioners' stonecutters had to finish their task in the pits by January of 1841.

In order to be chosen capital city, Springfield had been required to pledge \$50,000, due in three installments, toward the cost of the hall of government. But because of the severe 1837 financial panic, the third payment could not be met on time. Therefore, 101 area men voluntarily signed a note on March 22, 1838, for the \$16,666.67 still outstanding. Among the guarantors were John F. Rague, E. D. Baker and A. Lincoln.

When the House finally convened in its new Legislative chambers on December 7, 1840, Representative Lincoln took a seat there. Here he sat in solid splendor until adjournment on March 1, 1841. Never again would he serve in the General Assembly. Yet it was not his last connection with this notable building, completed (at last) in 1853.

Always a borrower of books, Lincoln checked out, on December 16, 1842, the very first tome loaned by the infant Illinois State Library from its first-floor headquarters in the State House. Since this library served only state officials, Lincoln charged out the work in his law partner's name, Stephen Trigg Logan, a member of the Legislature. The book in question? Volume I of the *Revised Laws of New York*.

In the Law Library, Lincoln often read, passed on jokes, played chess or loafed. In the Supreme Court room he tried over 200 cases. In the Hall of Representatives he spoke numerous times, eulogizing Henry Clay on July 6, 1852, and giving his famous "House Divided" thesis June 16, 1858. And there his martyred body lay in state May 3-4, 1865.

Other events of great importance have also permeated the very walls of the old State House. On the night of April 25, 1861, Senator Stephen A. Douglas delivered a memorable oration to a special session of the Legislature. For two hours he pleaded that the Union be preserved and admitted that his former political stand had somewhat aided the disunionists. When the "Little Giant" finished, the General Assembly awarded him a standing ovation. At long last, Douglas and Lincoln—in spite of their great difference in height—saw eye to eye. (Five and a half weeks later, the Senator lay dead.)

Before marching off to war as a colonel in 1861, Ulysses S. Grant expedited paper work in the State House (probably in the Adjutant General's office) as an acting aide and mustering officer to the Governor, drawing \$4.20 per day.

Both House and Senate chambers sometimes echoed to the activities of non-governmental bodies. For instance, the Illinois State Dental Society—beginning in 1868—met several times in these august halls.

Soon the House of Rague could no longer accommodate the expanding state government. In 1876 the various offices moved into the new Capitol on Second Street, begun in 1868. Sangamon County purchased the old property and converted it to a courthouse. Years afterwards its Commissioners raised a modern County Building on another site.

To preserve the old State House as a hallowed spot, Gov. Otto Kerner, on August 24, 1961, approved Senate Bill 39, appropriating \$1,015,000 for its acquisition. Then began the awesome architectural and engineering feat of restoring the shrine to its appearance in Lincoln's day. Carefully the heavy stones were plucked out one by one, numbered with a code showing exactly where each had rested, and transported by truck to the Illinois State Fair Grounds for temporary storage. Soon excavators literally scooped away the Public Square to a depth of ca. 40 feet. In the center of this gaping hole, contractors fabricated a subterranean building to house the new Illinois State Historical Library. On its top they erected a reinforced concrete shell with steel roof and dome beams. Around this lower framework the original wall stones would be relaid as a veneer. Thus, each limestone had to be of a uniform thickness: ten inches. Since most of the stones measured two feet, a diamond saw received the call to trim them down to size. But the conglomerate rock forced saw replacements too rapidly. The solution proved to be a special wire saw. Of the 3,300 original stones, a few turned out to be defective. Some were even glued together, but additional ones were needed to reconstruct the "moat," long gone from the site. Nor could new stone be mined from Hill's old quarry since this area is now covered by Lake Springfield! So, replacements were cut from a similar vein located at Mankato, Minnesota.

Finally, two levels of underground parking facilities mushroomed around the rooms of the Historical Library. Next, grass, shrubs, and trees sprang up over the garage until the original appearance of the Square was recaptured. On November 15, 1969, after nearly four years of labor, the old Capitol reopened its doors to the anxious public.



CAPITOL

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BUILDING



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
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STATE OFFICE  
BUILDING







Springfield, Illinois—the Heart of Lincoln Land—  
where are located the only home owned by Lincoln,  
the old Illinois State Capitol, and the impressive  
Lincoln Monument where the martyred President  
is buried. The cabin shown is in New Salem, 19  
miles from Springfield.

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**QUESTIONS  
and  
ANSWERS**

**LINCOLN  
SHRINE  
RESTORATION  
FUND**



**QUESTIONS  
and  
ANSWERS**

**LINCOLN  
SHRINE  
RESTORATION  
FUND**

# **LINCOLN SHRINE RESTORATION FUND**

## **QUESTIONS**

**and**

## **ANSWERS**

**Q. What is the purpose of the Lincoln Shrine Restoration fund?**

A. To assure the restoration and maintenance of the old Illinois Capitol Building as it was in Lincoln's day, removing the first floor which was added by Sangamon County at the turn of the century and returning the interior to its original grace and beauty.

**Q. What will it cost?**

A. The associate architects estimate the cost at \$1,870,000.

**Q. Is the Abraham Lincoln Association planning to raise this amount?**

A. No—the Association has been assured by Governor Kerner that if it raises through private subscriptions in Illinois \$250,000, he will recommend to the General Assembly the appropriation of \$1,620,000 and include this amount in his budget.

- Q. Why should even \$250,000 be provided from private contributions?**
- A. Because of the direct benefit that will accrue to Springfield and the fact that this \$250,000 will barely defray the cost involved in removing the first floor added by Sangamon County in 1900. The State could operate the building as it is with interior structural changes but it would not be the historic or tourist attraction that it will be if restored.
- Q. Who will pay for the building maintenance after restoration?**
- A. The State of Illinois.
- Q. Will this be a “dead building” as a shrine—serving no purpose except for tourist visitors?**
- A. No—it will house the State Historical Library and associated activities in part of the building and in building additions at basement level to be constructed entirely at State cost. At least one room will be devoted to displays of important Lincoln material owned by the Library—such as the Gettysburg address in Lincoln’s own handwriting and the Joshua Speed letters.
- Q. Why is the Abraham Lincoln Association heading this campaign?**
- A. The purposes of the Association, as stated in its by-laws, are—“to observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; *to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life;* and to actively encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career.” The

Association decided that the opportunity to assure the restoration of the old State House—"The House of the House Divided"—qualified under the second purpose (italicized above) and was asked by Governor Kerner to undertake it.

**Q. Who comprise the Board of Directors of the Association?**

A. Their names are printed on the back page of this pamphlet.

**Q. What will happen if the General Assembly refuses to vote the major part of the sum required to restore the Capitol Building?**

A. Pledges (or checks) would be returned to their donors.

**Q. Will the support of national foundations be sought?**

A. There will be a solicitation of some of the leading foundations but any help they might give would reduce the State appropriation. The Abraham Lincoln Association has undertaken to attempt to raise \$250,000 from Illinois sources — which would include gifts from professional organizations as well as private or corporate donors.

**Q. Has the campaign been cleared with Internal Revenue as qualifying for income tax exemption?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Are you asking for lump sum subscriptions or can they be spaced over three years?**

A. They may be spaced over three years.

**Q. If the campaign is successful what is the target date for construction?**

A. Sangamon County is renting the building until the new Court House is completed. If the Assembly acts by May or June, an immediate start could be made as the State has contracted for the complete architectural plans so that there would be no delay in getting bids once the money is assured.

**Q. What will the complete structure cost the State?**

A. \$2,690,000.

**Q. So that private subscriptions from business firms and interested individuals will represent just about one dollar against ten by the State?**

A. Right.

**Q. What are the dates of the Abraham Lincoln Association campaign?**

A. It opens June 15 and we hope that it can be closed September 15.

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**2nd Floor, Centennial Building**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

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AN EXHIBITION  
OF LINCOLN'S  
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TO AMERICA

*A. Lincoln*  
**FREEDOM**  
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Illinois State Historical Society

# OLD CAPITOL RESTORATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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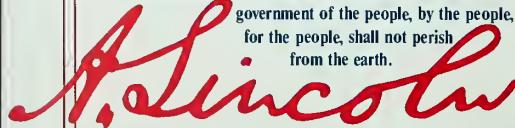
The procession through the village of Gettysburg  
to the cemetery dedication ceremonies on  
the morning of November 19, 1863.



Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that, government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



1809  
Born in Kentucky  
February 12

1816  
Family moves  
to Indiana

1830  
Moves to  
Illinois

1831  
Lives and works  
in New Salem

1834-42  
Member of  
Illinois Legislature

1842  
Marries Mary Todd  
November 14

1847-49  
U.S. Representative  
from Illinois

1858  
Lincoln-Douglas Debates  
establishes national  
reputation

1860  
Elected President  
November 6

1860  
South Carolina  
secedes from union  
December 17

1861  
Leaves Springfield  
for Washington  
February 11  
Civil War  
begins at Fort Sumter  
April 12

1862  
Emancipation  
Proclamation  
September 22

1863  
Battle of  
Gettysburg  
July 1-3

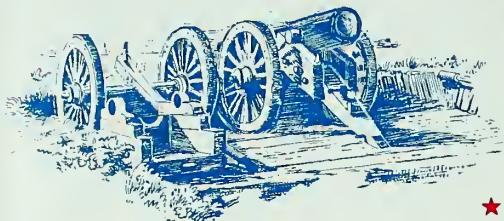
1863  
Dedication  
of Cemetery,  
Address at Gettysburg  
November 19

1864  
Elected to  
Second Term  
November 8

1865  
Lee surrenders  
April 9  
Dies from  
Assassin's bullet  
April 15

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is one of America's most treasured and renowned literary efforts. It is memorized by countless school children around the world. In less than 300 words President Lincoln simply and eloquently paid tribute to those who gave their lives fighting to preserve the Union and ensure the "new birth of freedom" that we cherish and share with all Americans today.

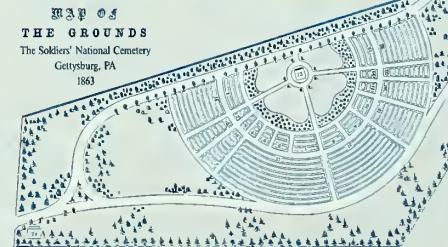
Under the auspices of the Illinois State Historical Society, the A. Lincoln Freedom Collection represents an overview of the documents and artifacts that serve to place the importance of the Gettysburg Address in an historical perspective.



Independence Day of 1863 was long remembered in the sleepy little town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The previous three days witnessed one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, pitting the union forces of General Meade against those of Robert E. Lee, the Confederacy's military genius. Lee's invasion of the North was successfully repulsed at Gettysburg, providing the Army of the Potomac with an outstanding military victory. But the price of victory was enormous: over forty-eight thousand Southern and Northern casualties.



Lincoln's compelling speech and this traumatic era in our nation's history is the subject of a dramatic display depicting the battle, the aftermath, and the dedication of the battlefield, in which the story and enduring legacy of the Gettysburg Address are portrayed. Two national treasures highlight the exhibit: original copies of both Lincoln's and Everett's Addresses. The Lincoln copy in our display is the first complete version, written by the President shortly after the ceremony. The photograph of Everett's address is the only existing copy. This display is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience one of the critical turning points in our country's history through the original documents, artifacts and photographs.



The Illinois State Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit, membership organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Illinois. For information concerning membership benefits and Society programming contact:

**Illinois State Historical Society  
Old State Capitol  
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(217) 782-4836**

*Join us and help make  
Illinois' past the foundation of our future.*



*All items in the A. Lincoln Freedom Collection are from the Illinois State Historical Library, a division of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.*



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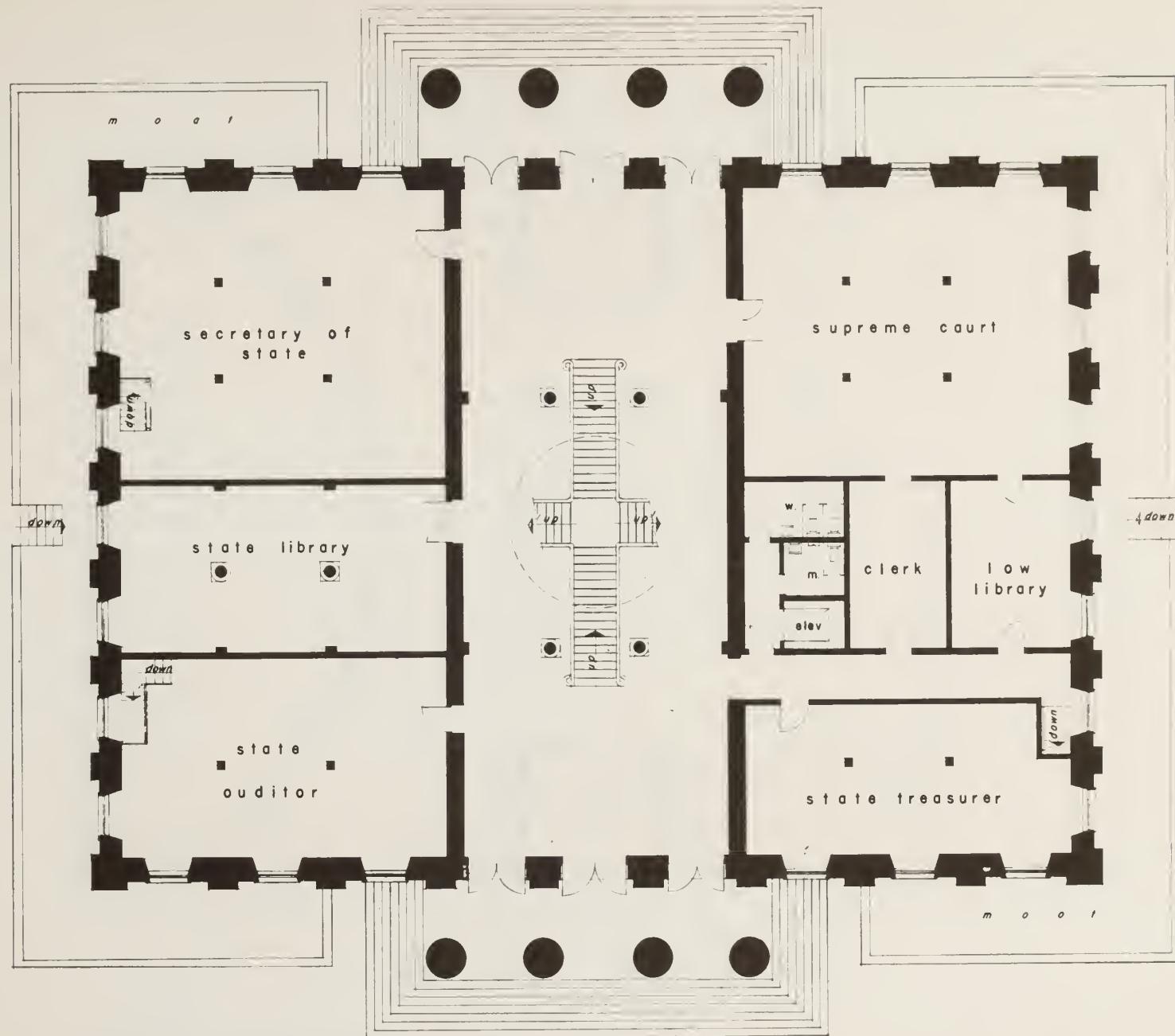
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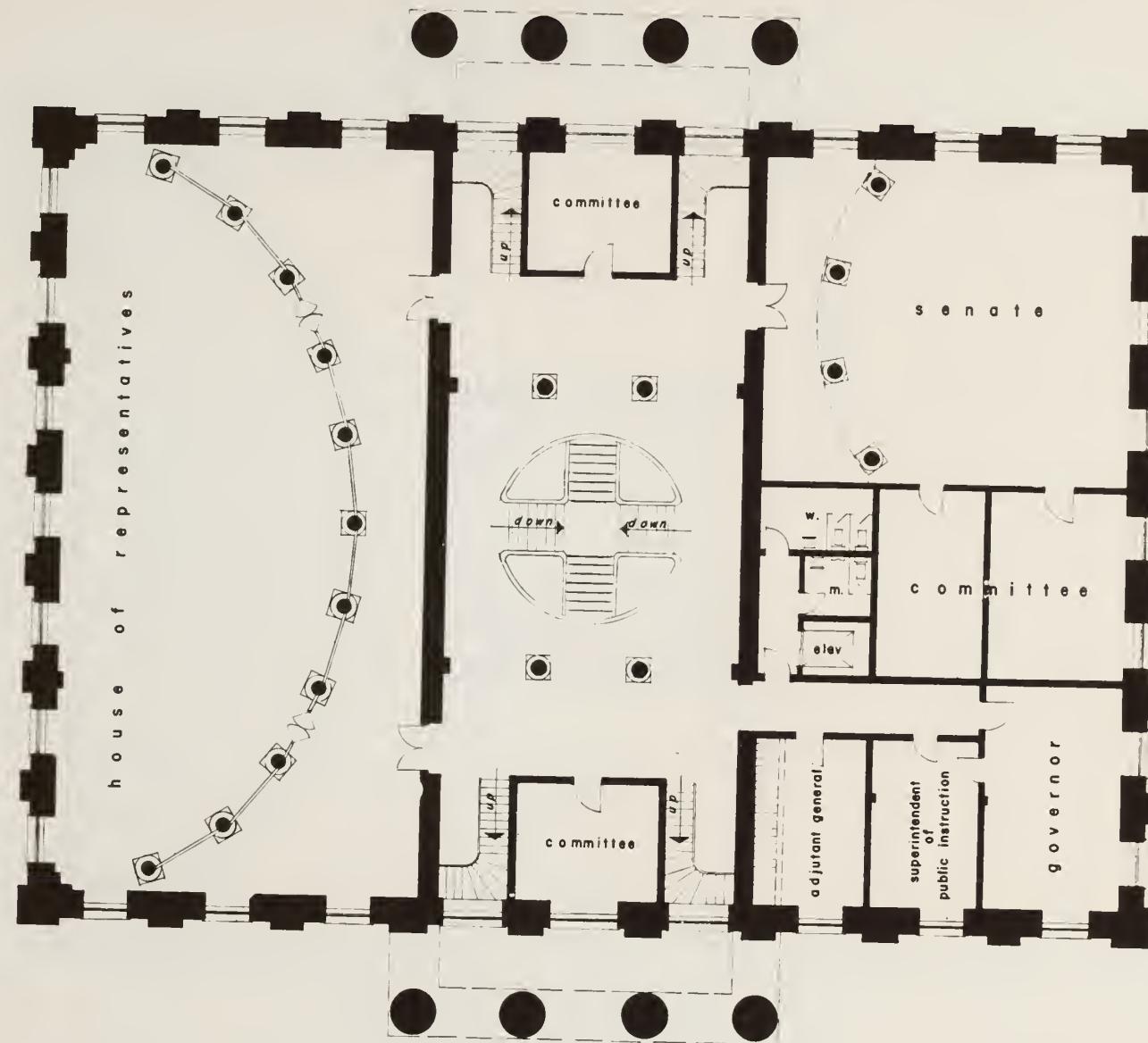


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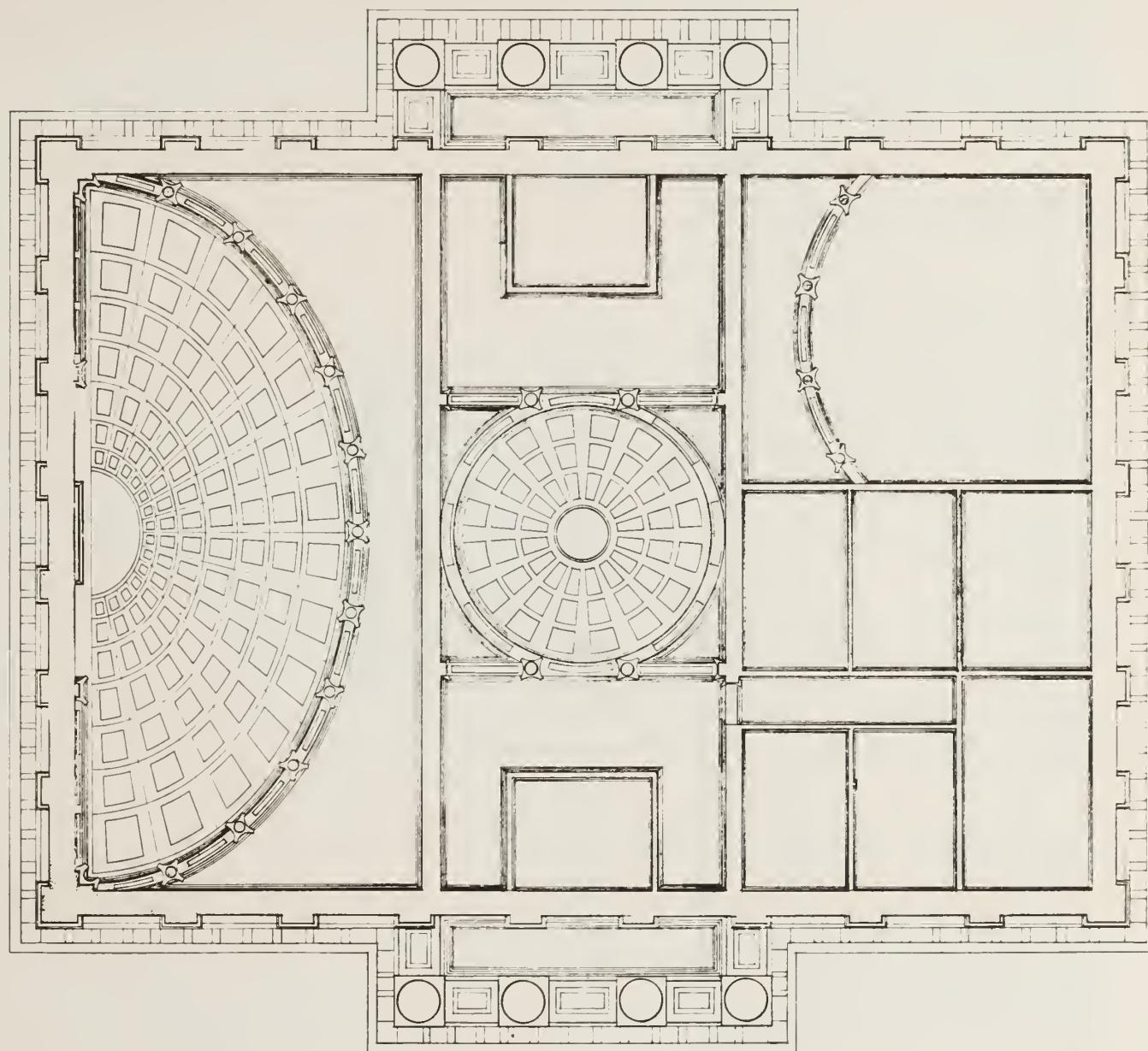


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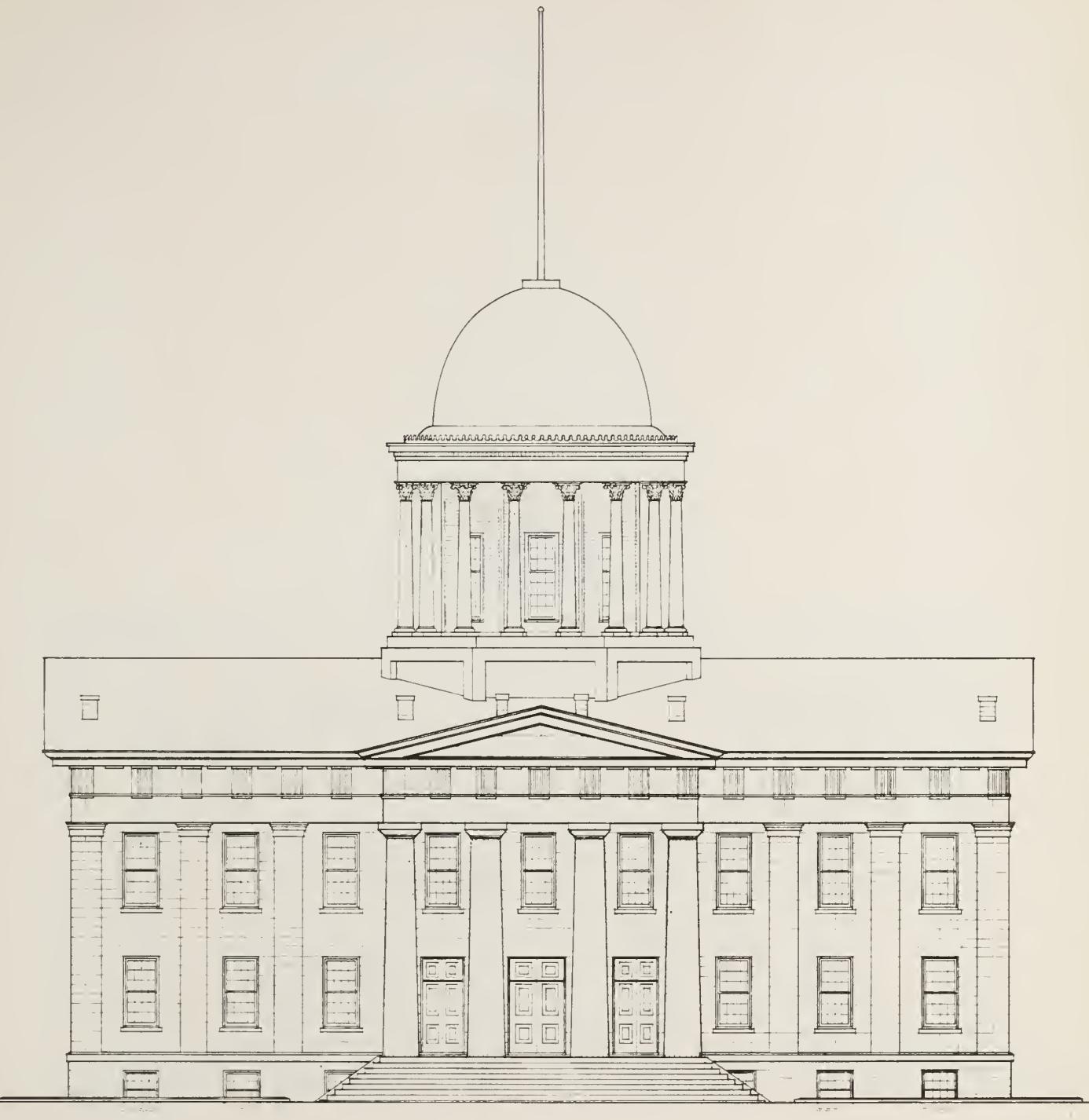


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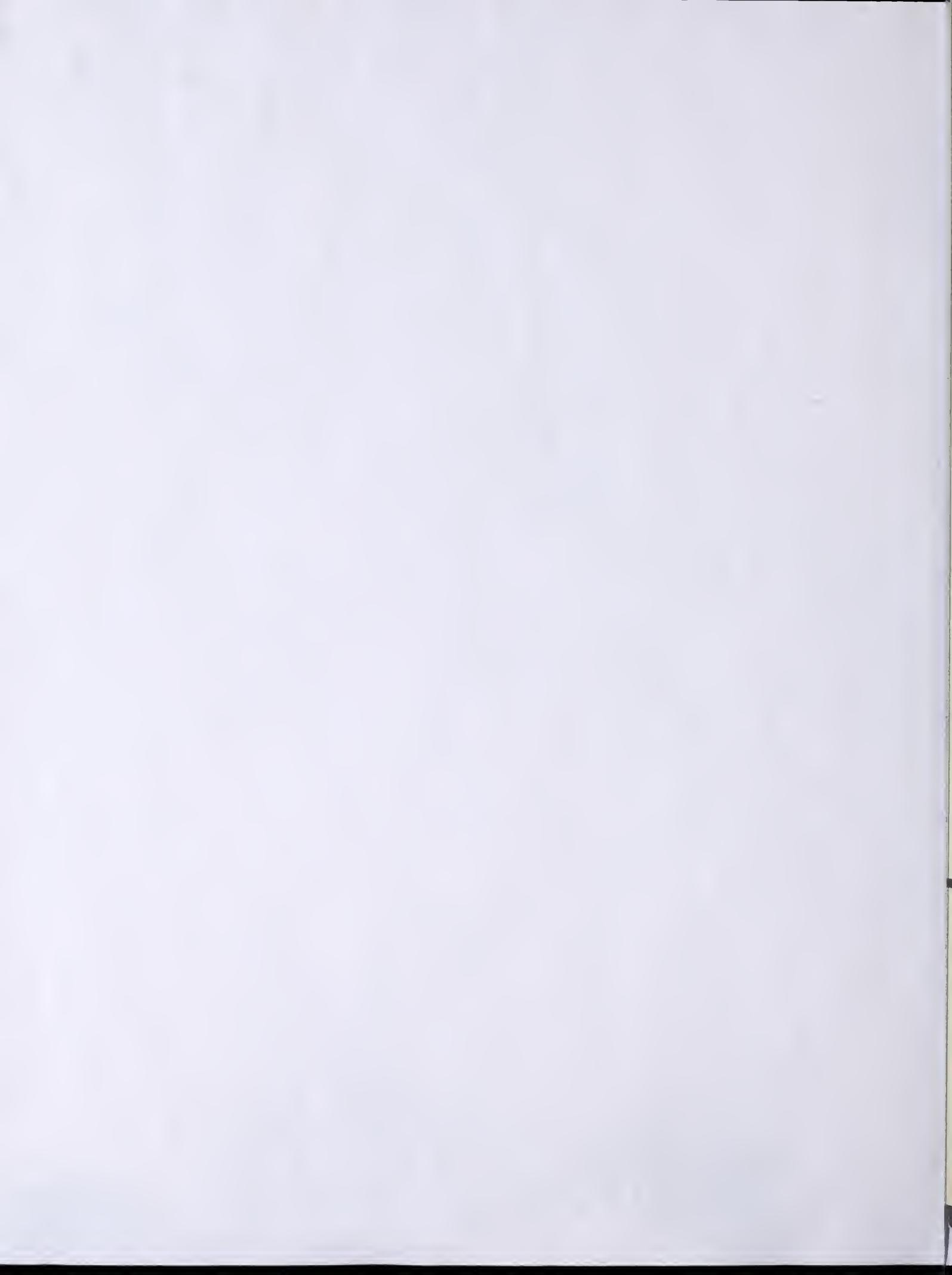
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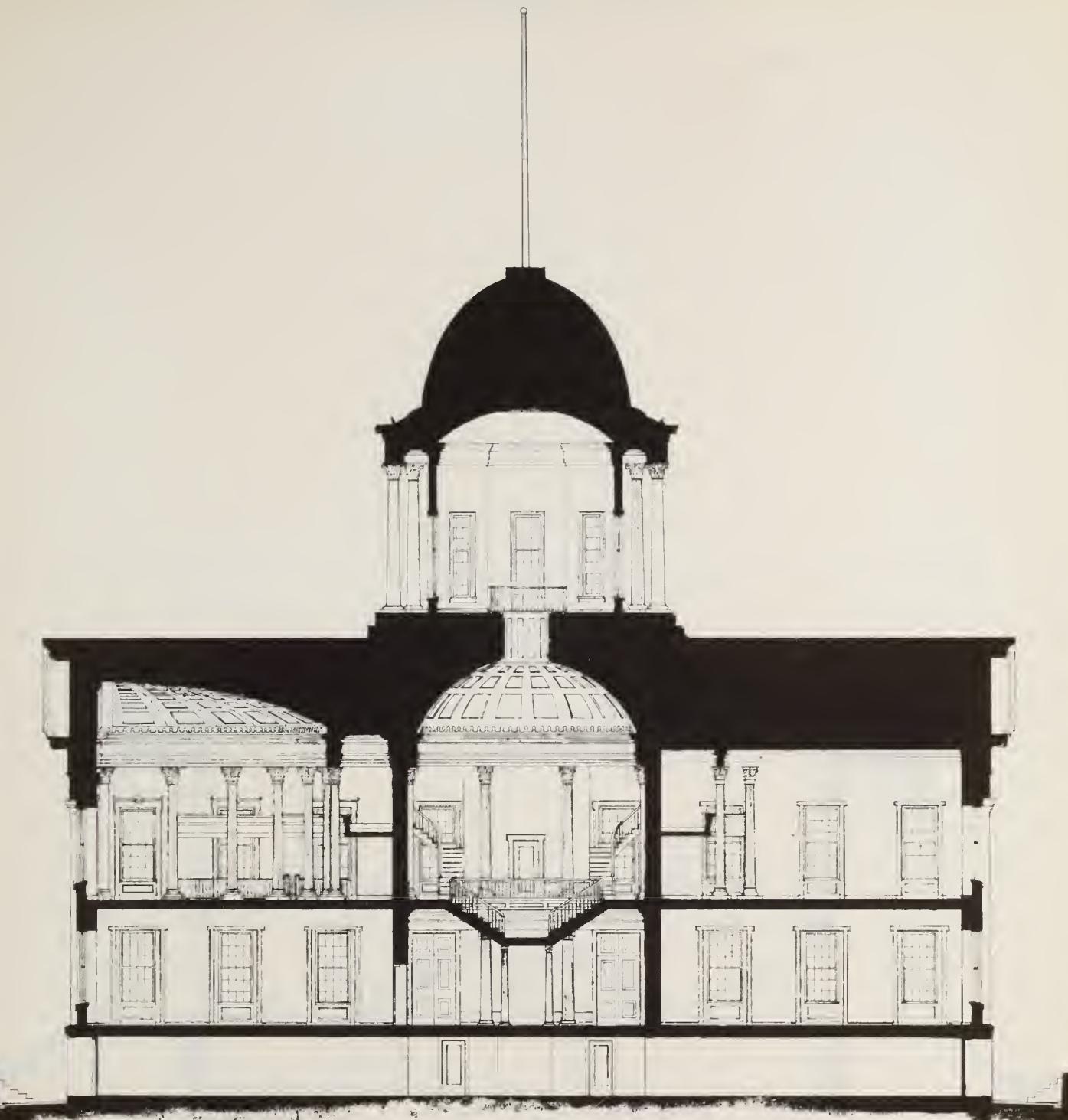




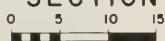
EAST ELEVATION

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LONGITUDINAL SECTION  
scale







TRANSVERSE SECTION  
S C A L E

0 5 10 15





